Military, police brace for worldwide 'jihad'

STORY ON PAGE A5

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2001 ★★ 34 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 282 ₱15

Double murder raps filed vs 2 Ping men

BY CATHY YAMSUAN

DOUBLE murder charges were filed yesterday against two associates of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in connection with the abduction and murder of public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) filed crimi-

DOUBLE/ A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Int'l watchdog nixes RP plea**
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- **British prof escapes kidnappers**
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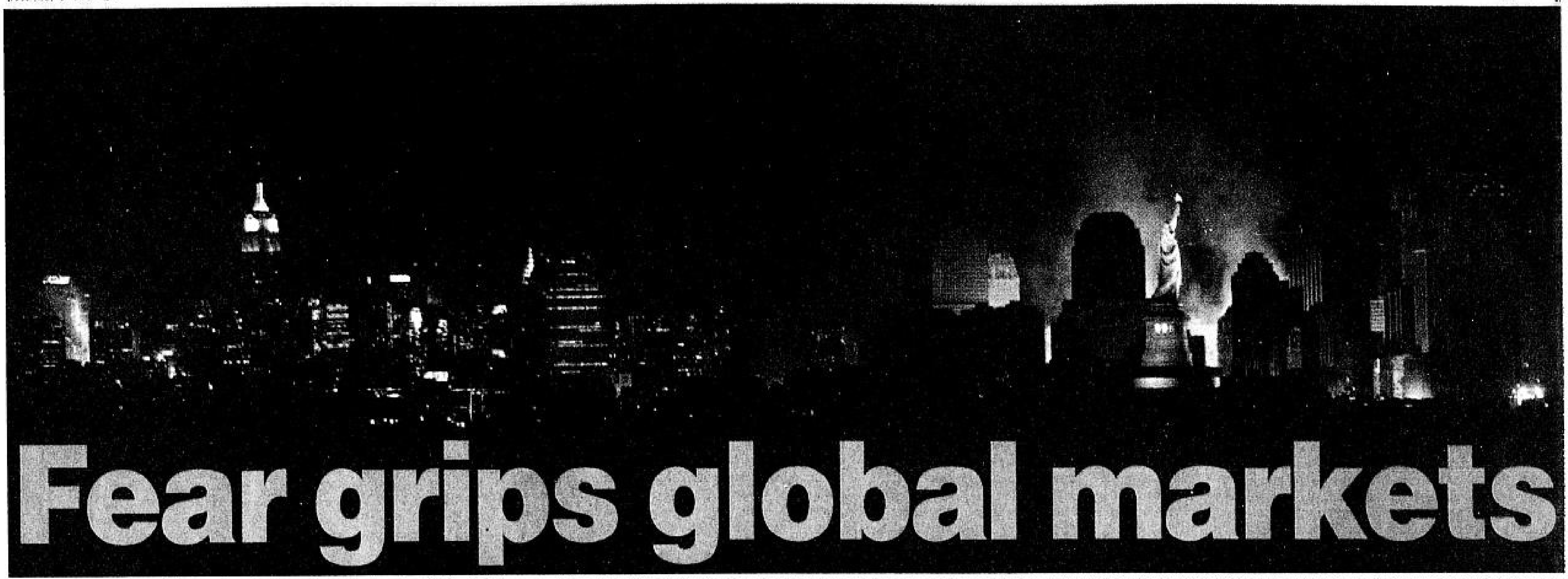


Fear grips global markets

MANHATTAN skyline will never be the same like America itself. The twin towers of the World Trade Center used to be where the smoke continues to rise. Still, the Statue of Liberty stands to proclaim that this is the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

AP

Stock exchanges plunge from Manila to Tokyo to London

HONG KONG—Red ink flowed yesterday through stock markets in Asia, including the Philippines, and top exchanges in Europe started sinking in the morning as traders anxiously awaited Wall Street's response to the terror attacks in America.

Stocks tumbled in volatile trading as Wall Street reopened Monday. Around 10:40 a.m. (10:40 p.m. in Manila), the Dow Jones climbed back above 9,100 points but was still down 494.88 points or 5.15 percent since the opening.

In Tokyo, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 504.48 points, or 5 percent, to 9,504.41—its worst finish in almost 18 years.

"This is ugly," said David Kim, general manager of international business at Seoul Securities.

Southeast Asia's biggest banking group believes the economic fallout from the terror attacks will seriously aggravate the global slowdown.

"The attacks have substantially raised the recession risk in the US," Singapore-based DBS Bank said in a weekly report, which painted a grim picture of the Asian region's prospects in the near term.

"In uncertain times, all markets tend to react on the negative side," said Paul Xiradis, equities director at Ausbil Dexia in Sydney, Australia, where the All Ordinaries index plunged 4.8 percent by the close.

"We saw that expressed in the European markets on Friday night where we saw hefty moves on the negative side," Xiradis said.

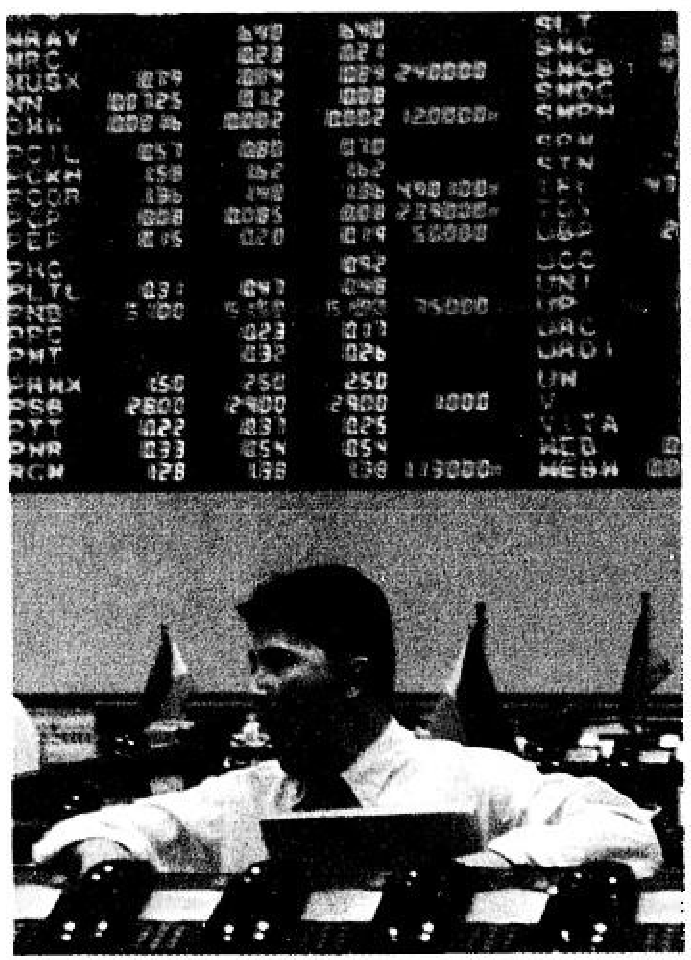
Europe's markets opened with relative calm on Monday, but it didn't last long and prices quickly started sliding. Blue chips were off by 0.7 percent in London, 1.7 percent in Frankfurt and 1.8 percent in Paris partway through the European trading day.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index closed with a loss of 3.5 percent after a shaky session that saw it down by more than 4 percent in early dealings.

Prices tumbled by 4.7 percent in Singapore and 6.1 percent in Bangkok.

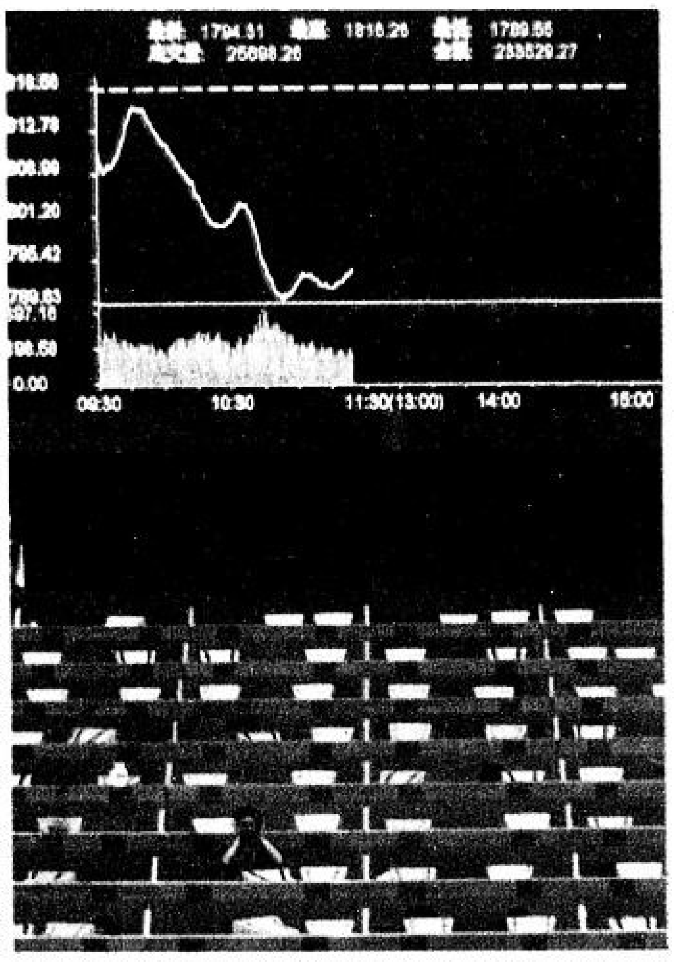
Seoul prices finished with a loss of 2.8 percent, and the South Korean government said it

FEAR/ A16



A YAWN sums up the mood in the Makati trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

REUTERS



EMPTY trading floor at the Shanghai Stock Exchange as China shares fall for the fourth straight day.

REUTERS

Can America win this 'new kind of war'?

WASHINGTON—"This is a conflict without battlefields or beachheads, a conflict with opponents who believe they are invisible. Yet they are mistaken, they will be exposed."

From the Oval Office in the White House, US President George W. Bush says America will "whip terrorism" and defeat an enemy that "hides in shadows, and has no regard for human life."

Tough talk, yes. But can what Washington describes as a "new kind of war" really be won?

Members of Congress, scholars and national security analysts said that while terrorism will never be eradicated, some battles can be won. Military action is expected, but this war won't resemble those of the past.

"It's a little like a war against certain kinds of disease—like the plague," said Rep. Porter Goss, the Republican chair of the House Intelligence Committee and a former CIA officer. "I think you can stamp out most of it, but from time to time you'll get isolated incidents and then you'll have to gear up to stamp that out."

If Bush is talking about eradicating several cells of terrorists around the world, he can succeed, said Clifford Egan, professor of history at

CAN/ A16

DAUGHTERS, WIVES

Ties that bind Osama and Taliban chief

WOULD you hand over your father-in-law, who also happens to be your son-in-law, to his most hated enemies?

A Taliban decision on whether to extradite suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden to the United States ultimately rests with the fundamentalist Islamic militia's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, a one-eyed recluse who is reportedly married to Bin Laden's eldest daughter.

The bond between Bin Laden and Omar, both of whom are in their early 40s, has been a family one since 1998, when Omar took the Saudi exile's eldest daughter as one of his wives, according to Yossef Bodansky, author of a book on Bin Laden.

Since then Bin Laden has himsel taken a fourth wife, a woman some believe to be Omar's daughter.

Friends say that Omar, the most powerful man in Afghanistan, lives modestly

TIES/ A16

LONG LIVE AMERICA
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DENNIS SABANGAN

AMERICAN DREAM

Wreckage of three stalls at a supermarket in Antipolo after one of six bombs exploded on Monday. *(Story in Metro, Page A19)*

GMA defends all-out support for US; militants disagree

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND ARMAND NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday defended her pledge of all-out support to the United States' declared war against international terrorists, saying that "if we have to pay a price for our conviction against terrorism, so be it."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez also warned that the Philippines would face bigger risks if it assumed a neutral stance, and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said it had "no choice" but to aid the United States in times of distress, as stated in the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT).

But militant groups called on the President not to bring the war to the Philippines.

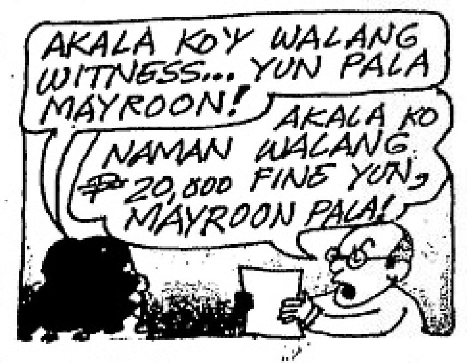
Sammy Malunes, spokesperson of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said she had "no right" to allow US forces to launch attacks from the country.

"This will cause great danger to our own people and make us involuntary allies in the dreadful assaults that the US will undertake against other peoples of the world," Malunes warned.

Certain lawmakers urged the government to go slow.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto said congressional support was required for the actions that the gov-

GMA/ A15



AKALA KO'Y WALANG WITNESS... YUN PALA MAYROON!
AKALA KO NAMAN WALANG ₱20,000 FINE YUN, MAYROON PALA!

High court raps ignoramus in robes

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC.

ELEMENTARY, dear judge.

Judge Herminia Pascua of the Vigan Regional Trial Court acquitted a man of murder charges in 1993 but "revised" her decision six days later and convicted him.

The Supreme Court has now rebuked Pascua for gross ignorance of the law and slapped a P20,000 fine on her.

HIGH/ A4

'DI PWEDENG GALAWIN YAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

ERAP FOUNDATION DEPOSIT

Ani renews plea to freeze ₱211M

BY DONNA S. CUETO

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has asked the Sandiganbayan anew to freeze the P211-million bank account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation which has been linked to former President Joseph Estrada, who stands accused of plunder.

In a 28-page motion, Desierto asked the anti-graft court to reconsider its rejection of his earlier petition to have the foundation's bank account "attached," since the money was allegedly really owned by Estrada and at least P200 million of it had come from *jueteng*, an illegal numbers game.

"The fact that the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation is not an accused in the instant case should not bar the honorable court from attaching funds in its possession belonging to the accused Joseph Estrada," the Ombudsman's motion said.

He said Estrada himself does not dispute that the P200-million "donation" made by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to the foundation had come from *jueteng* proceeds.

The Ombudsman cited transcripts of radio interviews with Estrada and the latter's statements during the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines press conference, where he claimed to have given instructions not to touch the funds but to return them to Singson.

His instructions to the foundation's board of trustees "perfectly illustrate(d) the complete control possessed by accused Estrada over the alleged Erap Muslim Youth Foundation," Desierto said.

"The bank deposits of the alleged foundation are proceeds of the crime of plunder and are the proper subjects of forfeiture as a necessary consequence," the motion read.

Also yesterday, Desierto asked the Sandiganbayan to reject the motion of Estrada lead counsel Rene Saguisag seeking the inhibition of a Third Division justice who had thrown him out of court.

In a six-page comment submitted to the court, Desierto said the petition filed by Saguisag seeking the recusation of Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro should be "denied outright" because the lawyer acted "absolutely out of order."

Brusque interruption

The Ombudsman said a "simple playback of the cassette record" of the court stenographer would show that Saguisag brusquely interrupted and heatedly confronted Justice de Castro.

Desierto said Saguisag could have waited for the "slightest break in the animated discussion" between De Castro and former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas.

"But no, he had to rudely disrupt the good justice's delivery as if he and he alone had anything worthwhile to state," Desierto said.

He said Saguisag seemed to have "deliberately provoked" the court with his actions.

"His actuations clearly projected the attitude of being above the court," he said. "Counsel Saguisag disqualified himself, plain and simple."

Estrada's lawyers said they would insist on the recusation or inhibition of two of the three justices of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division—De Castro and chair Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr.

'Stop talking'

The two justices directed guards to throw Saguisag out of court Thursday after he stood up in the middle of a heated argument between the justices and Cuevas to ask for a copy of the 30-page pre-trial order.

"I am the lead counsel. Wait, wait, you are referring your honor to a resolution…" he said, trying to make himself heard.

But Justice De Castro cut him off, banged the gavel repeatedly and shouted, "Stop talking!"

Saguisag continued to talk.

"Bring him out of the courtroom!" De Castro ordered the guards.

Saguisag continued to plead, this time addressing Badoy, the division chair, "Your honor, unless we are given a copy of what we are talking about, we cannot follow what is going on."

Sandigan orders new probe of NEA chief

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has returned to the Office of the Ombudsman for reinvestigation the charges of negligence filed against National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Manuel Luis Sanchez.

In a ruling issued Friday by the Third Division headed by Justice Anacleto Badoy, the Sandiganbayan said it found merit in a petition for reconsideration submitted by Sanchez's legal counsels.

The case was returned to the Ombudsman for a thorough review of its decision to charge Sanchez with graft.

In its information sheet submitted to the Sandiganbayan last month, Ombudsman Prosecutor Marilou Ancheta-Mejica said Sanchez was liable for gross negligence in his former capacity as Deputy Administrator for Finance under then Administrator and now Pangasinan Rep. Conrado Estrella III.

In March last year, the NEA deposited some P85 million in bid bonds related to a wood poles project with the Land Bank of the Philippines North Avenue QC branch. However, LBP officials led by the branch manager Pablito Calayag were able to withdraw from the NEA accounts and abscond with the entire amount.

Only ₱1-M bounty for nabbed Abu

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

LAMITAN, Basilan—The military here has denied capturing an Abu Sayyaf leader with a P5-million prize on his head, only one with a smaller bounty of P1 million.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, 18th Infantry Battalion commander, said the suspect, Jimmy Theng, 31, was a spiritual adviser to Tuburan town-based Abu Sayyaf leaders Sattar Yacub and Suhid Tanadjalin.

"He (Theng) is considered influential because he is an *imam* (religious leader) in Barangay Kaddayan and at the same time he is a spiritual adviser of the Abu Sayyaf," Lucero told the INQUIRER.

Col. Irineo Espino, Southern Command intelligence chief, said military officials here were surprised to see news reports that a ranking Abu Sayyaf leader with a P5-million prize on his head had been arrested.

"*Kami nga dito nagulat sa re*port, *hindi nga namin alam kung saan at kung sino ang ipe*-present *namin. Wala kaming* report *na ganyan* (We here were surprised by the report. We didn't know where or whom to present [as a suspect]. We didn't have a report like that)," Espino said.

News reports yesterday said the military had captured a top Abu Sayyaf leader in Basilan on Saturday and would present him to media on Monday.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, commanding general of the Southern Command, confirmed Theng's political and religious status in the Abu Sayyaf.

He said Theng admitted during interrogation that he was among the bandits who took over St. Peter's Church and the Dr. Jose Torres Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2.

Cimatu said Theng also confirmed that international terrorist Osama Bin Laden had been giving financial assistance to the Abu Sayyaf.

"He confirmed positive assistance from Bin Laden," Cimatu said.

Theng was arrested at his residence in Barangay Kaddayan on Saturday.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Philippine Army spokesperson, said Theng also admitted the Abu Sayyaf was already using some mosques in Basilan "to propagate belief in sowing terror."

"He is a *tablique*, a religious leader who believes in the call for Islam to control the world," Mabanta said.

Theng, who reportedly carried a P1-million tag on his head, was said to be one of the core group of leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and was on the Army's Order of Battle.

Theng, in an interview with the INQUIRER, said a number of soldiers had come to his house on Saturday and told him he was being "invited by Colonel Lucero."

Theng said he went to 18th IB headquarters on Sunday morning where he was accused of being a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

Dalma Krisol, Theng's aunt, said the suspect was invited by the military to settle a feud with an MNLF integree assigned to the 18th IB.

Krisol called on the military to release Theng and "arrest the real Abu Sayyaf."

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said he would look into the arrest because Theng's name was not on his (Akbar's) list of suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

Also arrested by the military Saturday were Intang Isnijal, 47, and Daud Indaling, 31.

Together with Theng, they were taken to Barangay Balobo Sunday morning to be identified by local residents. Some of the residents, however, began mauling the three.

Suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits had raided Barangay Balobo on Aug. 2, taking with them several residents. Some of the hostages were later killed by their captors.

The military allegedly allowed the Balobo residents to beat up the suspects for about 15 minutes.

The three were then taken to 18th IB headquarters.

Theng's face was swollen while Isnijal lost four teeth.

Gloria seeks budget for OFW evacuation

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND CLARISSA S. BATINO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has asked the budget department to provide a standby fund for the evacuation of Filipino workers even as the government plans to ask Congress for a contingency budget to finance such an evacuation, among other anticipated fallout from the United States-led global campaign against terrorism.

The new money is to complement the funds of "Operation Aquila," the government's contingency evacuation plan for workers in those Middle East countries likely to be affected by US action against terrorists, said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

The Aquila funds are being held by the labor department.

Tiglao said an initial P200 million would be needed, but stressed that this was merely a "standby" fund to be used only if the Dole funds are depleted.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the need for a contingency budget would be discussed during a Cabinet meeting today.

"We really need to discuss contingency funding and this could be one on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting. There is a need to discuss the cost to us, depending on how the United States would deal with the situation," said the finance chief without giving figures.

Any additional budget allocation would be on top of the P780 billion that the Macapagal-Arroyo administration is asking Congress to approve for next year.

Camacho said a contingency budget would be needed to finance, among others, the evacuation of Filipino overseas workers.

Of the more than one million Filipinos working in the Middle East, about 750,000 are in Saudi Arabia.

Camacho believes no Filipino is employed in Afghanistan which would be the focus of the threatened US military assault as suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden is reportedly being protected by the Taliban government there.

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British prof seized, escapes kidnappers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A British professor, who was abducted by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits on Saturday, escaped from his captors less than 12 hours after he was snatched from the Mindanao State University campus in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, witnesses and the military said.

Dr. Percival Arthur Showers, a native of Sierra Leone who holds a British passport and has a family in London, emerged from his ordeal with superficial cuts and gashes, Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy chief of the Southern Command, said.

Witnesses said four armed men barged into their faculty residence at about 8 p.m. on Sunday and took the 47-year-old Showers, a Muslim convert, who is on the faculty of the state-run university. He arrived in Mindanao in 1998.

Showers was dragged into a getaway Tamaraw jeep which sped toward the coast.

But some hours later, he put up a fight and escaped, hiding in a mangrove swamp until dawn yesterday.

Showers was taken in for debriefing by the military after his ordeal.

'Personal grudge'

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said there were "no reports of ransom changing hands or even demands."

But Gudani believes the motive for the abduction was "a personal grudge" so it was not a case of kidnapping-for-ransom.

He told reporters that the abductors were not Abu Sayyaf and had simply been contracted to harass the professor.

"It's a personal grudge because it appears that Showers took a local wife," Gudani said.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, commanding officer of the Southern Command, said, however, the Abu Sayyaf was still a suspect considering that the area is a known stronghold of the bandit group.

"It could not have been the Pentagon group because this group is in the areas of Cotabato and Maguindanao," Cimatu said.

One witness who with several others were in the living room of the faculty house at the time of the abduction, said the men pointed their guns at them and ordered them not to move.

"They (suspects) did not conceal their identities. They didn't wear masks or barge in. They simply walked into the house and grabbed Dr. Showers," the witness said.

What's the problem?

Other witnesses said the kidnappers were in their 20s and were armed with M-16 Armalite rifles. There were eight kidnappers but only four entered the house while the rest acted as lookouts.

"I asked them, 'What's the problem?' They simply shoved me to another room and ordered me to keep quiet," the witness said.

The armed men then approached Showers who was working on his computer. One of them pointed his gun at Showers and ordered him to follow them.

"They didn't say anything. They simply told Dr. Showers 'Come with us.' I just asked Dr. Showers to cooperate with them," the witness said.

Adan said Showers managed to jump off the jeep when it reached a bridge at about 2:30 a.m. He swam to a nearby mangrove where he waited until daybreak before reporting to the Marine Battalion Landing Team, which immediately dispatched a team to pursue the kidnappers. *Reports from Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora, Metro Manila and Alexander M. Young, Noralyn Mustafa and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ATO places flying schools under watch

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Abigail L. Ho

THE AIR Transportation Office yesterday ordered all aviation schools to submit a profile of all its foreign students, explaining that this was part of the stringent security measures being undertaken following the terror attacks on the United States last week.

The country's 16 flight training schools and even the small flying schools are covered by the order, said ATO chief Adelberto Yap, who said there were "a lot" of foreigners coming to the country to learn how to fly airplanes and helicopters.

US authorities investigating the airplane attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon have found that some of the suspects had trained in US aviation schools.

The ATO yesterday issued a directive to managers of the country's 87 airports nationwide to implement tight security measures in all aspects of their operations.

The ATO has adopted the United Nations Security Council's anti-terrorism resolution which calls on the international community "to redouble their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts by increased cooperation and full implementation of relevant international anti-terrorist conventions and Security Council resolutions."

All aviation schools have been asked to submit a list of their foreign students. They must also furnish the ATO with all pertinent personal information about their students, including pictures and transcript of records.

"We'll profile them and investigate their backgrounds," Yap said in a phone interview.

He said the ATO had to enforce stricter rules on foreign aviation students as "it's very easy to study flying here. All you need is money and proof that you're a legitimate alien."

Yap said there would be no exemptions from the tight security measures. The order covers all aircraft, whether belonging to airline, cargo, corporate and general aviation.

Passengers of general aviation and charter flights in Manila now have to board at the Manila Domestic Terminal where Philippine National Police and the Airport Security Group staff will inspect the aircraft, passengers and cargo before take-off.

Similar inspections will be conducted for passengers outside of Metro Manila.

Yap added that all flight kitchens have been advised to use plastic instead of metal utensils.

Hand-carried baggage will be limited to only one instead of the allowable two.

"And these hand-carried baggage will just be the small ones like handbags," Yap said.

Foreign airlines will be required to submit the names of their flight crew, including substitute crewmembers.

All flights to and from the US have resumed and airport operations are back to normal, airport authorities said.

Two flights each to San Francisco and Los Angeles left yesterday as well as one flight to Guam and another to Detroit.

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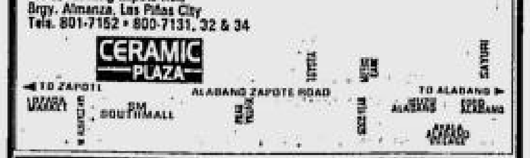

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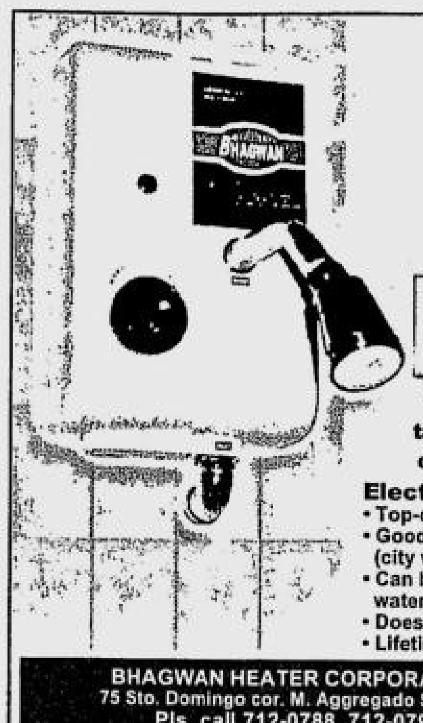

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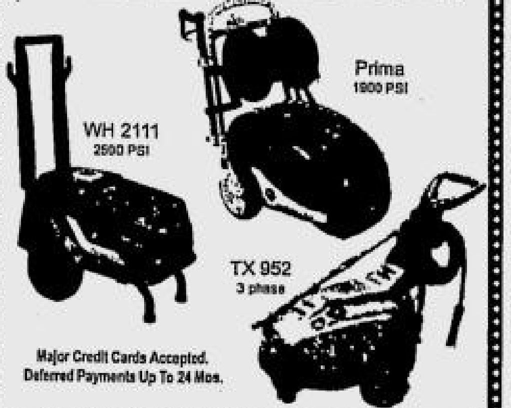

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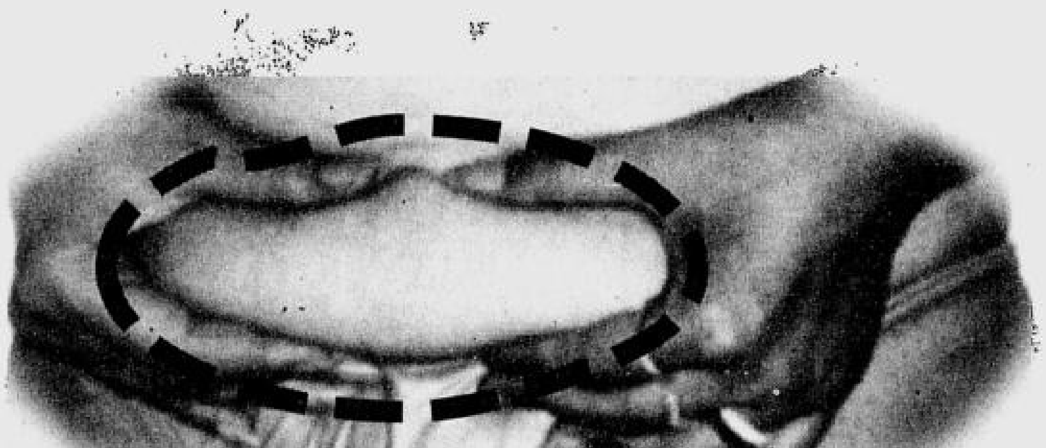

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GMA to convene Nat'l Security Council today

By Martin P. Marfil
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will convene the National Security Council today to discuss issues pertinent to the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the meeting was called "to, among other things, convince the members of the opposition who are represented in the council to support her position" that the Philippines should support the planned armed retaliation of the United States against those offering the terrorists safe haven.

He said the council would also discuss internal-security scenarios once the US-led coalition launches its attacks.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. downplayed the concern aired by lawmakers and some sectors that the President's expression of all-out support might drag the Philippines into a war it was not ready for.

"That's why there is going to be a Security Council meeting. These issues (will) be explained to the leaders of both houses of Congress as well as to the majority and the minority," Guingona said.

Tiglao said there was no need for congressional approval for whatever support that the Philippines would extend.

He said such an approval was needed only in cases of a "declaration of a state of war" against a "sovereign nation." In this case, he said, it would merely be a campaign against a terrorist organization.

Guingona's defense

Guingona defended Malacañang's offer for the United States to use its two former air and naval bases in Clark and Subic. But he admitted that the US government neither requested the use of its ex-bases nor invoked the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

He said the government's offer was based on the resolution issued by the United Nations Security Council asking for global cooperation to fight terrorism.

Guingona said he saw "no problems" in allowing the use of Clark and Subic.

"The basis for (our) cooperation is the UN Security Council resolution . . . The cooperation will depend on the kind of strategy that will be adopted," he said.

Philippine Ambassador to Iran Ernesto Llamas said there was no need to evacuate around 1,000 Filipinos in that country despite the anticipated US military attack against neighboring Afghanistan.

Llamas yesterday told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Iran was not likely to be attacked because its government had expressed sympathy with the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

High court raps ignoramus in robes

(From page A1)

It also issued a landmark ruling barring the revision of court decisions except to correct clerical errors.

In the ruling written by Senior Associate Justice Josue N. Bellosillo and issued Thursday, the high court said Pascua committed a grave error when she revised her decision.

"Elementary is the rule that a decision is no longer susceptible to amendment or alteration except to correct errors which are clerical in nature, to clarify ambiguity caused by an omission or mistake in the dispositive portion, or to rectify a travesty of justice brought about by a *moro-moro* or mock trial," the high court said.

It said Pascua should have known that she could no longer revise a promulgated decision of acquittal without violating not only an elementary rule of procedure but also the constitutional prescription against double jeopardy.

"When the law is so elementary, not to know it constitutes gross ignorance of the law," it said.

In her decision dated Aug. 13, 1993, Pascua acquitted Miguel Argel on the grounds that there was no witness who positively identified him as the murderer during the trial.

After the decision was handed down, the private complainant's lawyer protested, saying there had been such a witness.

Pascua reviewed her notes and discovered that the lawyer was right.

She then issued an order on Aug 16 stating her intention to revise her previous judgment and reset another "rendering of the decision" on Aug. 19.

Stenographic notes

In her revised decision, Pascua said the stenographic notes relating to the testimony of the eyewitness, Tito Retreta, was not attached to the records when she wrote her initial decision.

But the complainant's lawyer was unconvinced by the judge's explanation and lodged an administrative case against her before the tribunal, through the Office of the Court Administrator.

In resolving the case, the tribunal refused to give credence to Pascua's defense.

"Judges have always been reminded to take their own notes of salient portions of hearings and not to rely on the transcripts of stenographic notes," the high court said.

It added: "The pivotal testimony of Tito Retreta would not have been overlooked and consequently disregarded had respondent (Pascua) prepared her own notes and read them as she was supposed to."

2 others

Pascua is not alone in this regard.

The Supreme Court chided two other trial judges—Faustino Imbing and Frisco Lilagan—and fined them P10,000 each for gross ignorance of the law in Administrative Cases No. 89-403 and 98-551.

Judge Imbing of the Regional Trial Court of Zamboanga del Sur had accepted the change of plea of the accused in the criminal case People vs. Villanueva from not guilty to guilty even after the prosecution had already presented two witnesses.

Also, Imbing appreciated the change of plea as a mitigating circumstance and imposed a lesser penalty on the accused.

The high court, through Justice Santiago Kapunan, said it was elementary that for a plea of guilty to be appreciated as a mitigating circumstance, the accused must confess his guilt prior to the presentation of the evidence for the prosecution.

"It cannot be denied that (Imbing) committed error in the application of a basic legal command embodied in the law. In disregarding the rules and settled jurisprudence, the respondent judge showed gross ignorance, albeit without any malice or corrupt motive," the tribunal said.

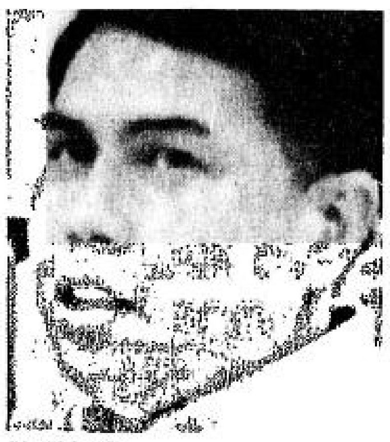
As for Judge Lilagan of the Regional Trial Court of Leyte, the high court said he committed an error when he issued a writ of replevin on seized items—in this case, logs—that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had taken in custody. (Replevin is a procedure whereby seized goods may be provisionally restored to their owner pending the outcome of an action to determine the rights of the persons concerned.)

The logs were the subject of criminal proceedings for illegal logging. The writ, if implemented, would allow Robert Hernandez, captain of the ML Hadija from where the logs were seized by the National Bureau of Investigation on Feb. 24, 1998, to recover these.

In the ruling written by Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, the high court said Lilagan should have known better.

It said that given Hernandez's complaint stating that the NBI had turned over the seized items to the DENR, the judge should been sufficiently alerted to the fact that the DENR had custody of the logs.

AQUINO



MANCAO

Double murder raps filed vs 2 Lacson men

(From page A1)

nal charges against Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Also named in the 25-page charge sheet was Senior Supt. Teofilo Viña, the highest ranking police officer implicated by witnesses in statements given during preliminary investigations conducted by government prosecutors.

The DOJ had earlier charged Aquino, Mancao and Lacson with rebellion following the May 1 assault on Malacañang by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Aquino and Mancao are believed to be in Canada. They managed to elude airport authorities when they left for Hong Kong last July.

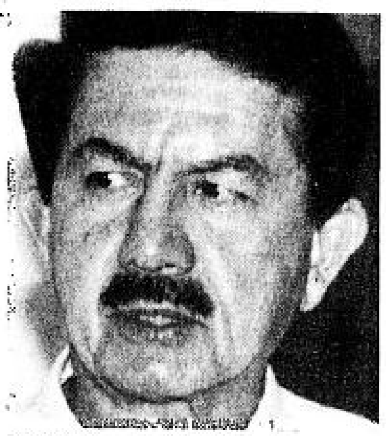
Witnesses said Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito were abducted at the corner of Zobel Roxas Street and South Superhighway in Manila on the morning of Nov. 24, 2000. Dacer was on his way to Manila Hotel at that time.

Their charred remains were later found at a dry creek in Indang, Cavite.

Brothers William and Alex Diloy had told the National Bureau of Investigation that Dacer and Corbito were tortured and strangled to death by operatives of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) on the night of their capture. Lacson concurrently headed the PAOCTF and the Philippine National Police.

The DOJ said it found sufficient evidence to show that Aquino and Mancao, although not physically present during the abduction and double murders, were involved in the "strategic planning" that led to the victims' deaths.

"Clearly, as the strategic planners in the PAOCTF conspiracy to kill Dacer and Corbito, Mancao and Aquino are principals in the double murder, notwithstanding their non-participation in every detail in the execution of the crime," the DOJ said.



DACER

Worse, the DOJ said the two men's absence and failure to submit evidence during the preliminary investigation was unexplained. "Even their lawyers were at a loss on their clients' whereabouts," the DOJ said.

"This evinces that from the start, Mancao and Aquino were no longer interested in presenting their defense during the reinvestigation," the DOJ said.

Viña, on the other hand, was named "tactical leader" in charge of the "operational assignments" of the group that seized Dacer and Corbito.

The Diloy brothers said the PAOCTF operatives, who seized Dacer and Corbito, regularly reported to Viña through their cellular phones before the two were summarily executed.

Viña may not have been physically present in Indang, the prosecutors said, but his act of barking orders on the phone meant that "he is clearly a principal by direct participation."

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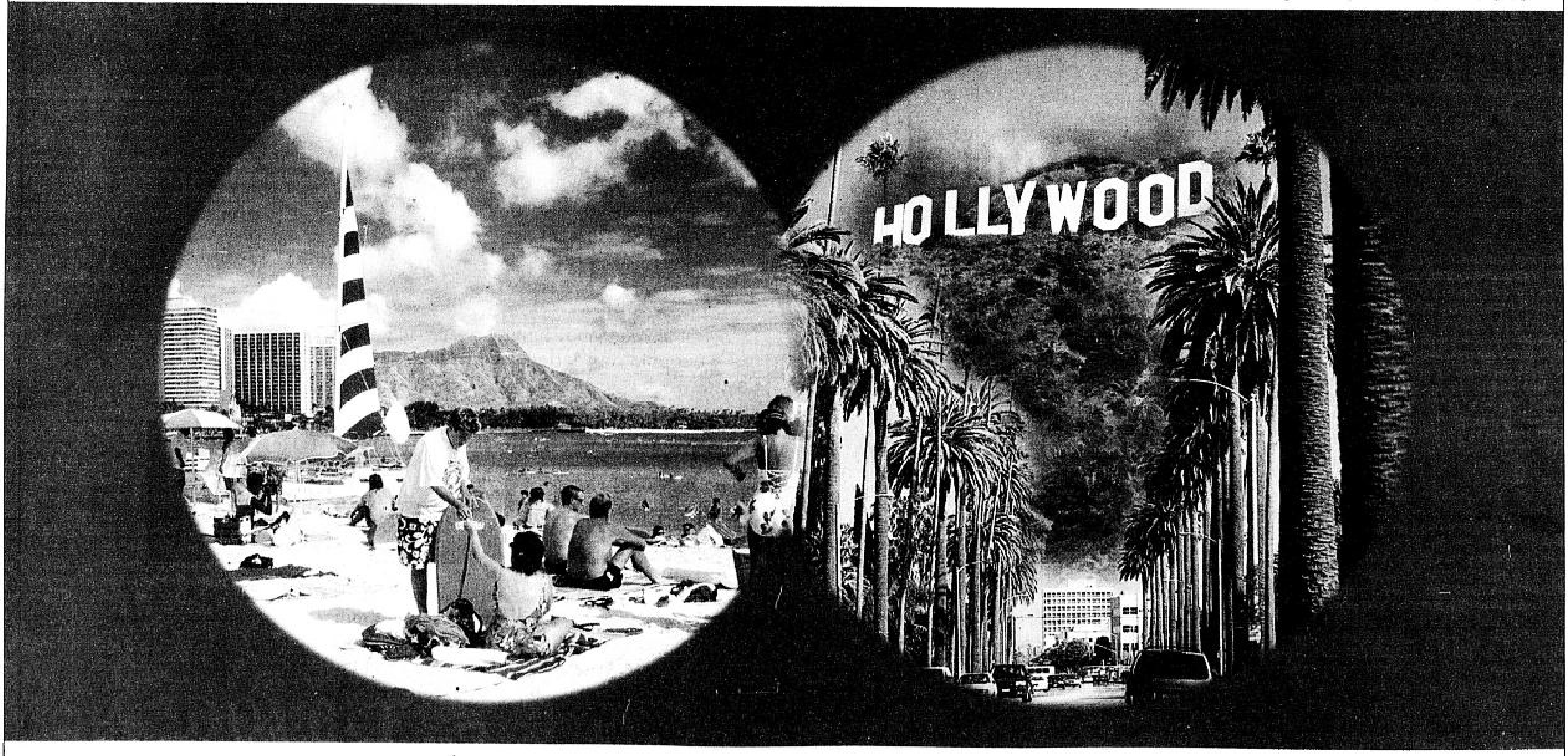

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Military, police brace for Taliban call for 'jihad'

BY NORMAN BORDADORA AND ALCUIN PAPA

THE PHILIPPINE military and national police are preparing for heightened terrorist attacks after the Taliban in Afghanistan called on Muslims around the world to mount a *jihad*, or holy war, if the United States attacks their country to go after Osama Bin Laden.

This developed after a supposed ranking leader of the Abu Sayyaf was arrested by the Philippine Army over the weekend and reportedly told military interrogators that Bin Laden was supporting the local bandit group's operations. ***(See related story on Page 2)***

"It is almost a certainty that the Abu Sayyaf would heed the Taliban's call for a *jihad*, especially after we received information that Bin Laden financed the training and operations of the Abu Sayyaf," said Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Philippine Army spokesperson.

"We still do not know the (extent) of his assistance to the Abu Sayyaf but we do know that he continues to hold a considerable amount of influence over the group's members," Mabanta said.

Government troops, over the weekend, arrested three suspected Abu Sayyaf members in Basilan. They were Jimmy Theng, 31; Intang Isnijal, 47, and Daud Indaling, 31.

It was Theng who reportedly told Army investigators during tactical interrogation that Bin Laden was a supporter of the Abu Sayyaf.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Bin Laden was in the country in 1995 to train demolition and bomb experts.

"Some of these experts are now with the Abu Sayyaf and they are the subject of pursuit operations by the military," Adan said over dzRH radio.

Isnijal also reportedly confirmed Theng's allegation that the Abu Sayyaf was receiving financial support from Bin Laden.

"If the country is affected by the Taliban's call for a *jihad*, then the Philippines and the United States should help each other together with the other members of the coalition," said Adan.

"We have to cooperate (with each other) to overrun these international terrorists," Adan said over dzRH.

Adan said there was still nothing specific regarding the country's response to the United States' call for retaliation against the terrorists who attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last week.

"There are still no particulars regarding the country's participation. It all depends on what the US would do next and on our country's capability. Our priority is still our country's internal security," Adan said.

Adan said the AFP has stepped up its intelligence and surveillance operations to prevent terrorists from entering the country. Security has also been beefed up at all US installations in the country, he said.

For its part, the Philippine National Police has proposed the creation of an elite counter-terrorist unit in the country in the wake of the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington D.C.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza made the proposal to President Macapagal-Arroyo during a Cabinet meeting yesterday which dealt with the terrorist attacks on the US.

Under the proposal, the elite unit would be under the direct supervision of the Presidential Center for Transnational Crimes, a unit under the Office of the President that was formerly headed by Mendoza himself.

The elite unit will be composed of police and military intelligence operatives.

PNP Community Relations Group director, Gen. Thompson Lantion, said the unit would gather information, old and new, on terrorists and monitor their movements to thwart any designs they may have on the country.

"Information on these terrorists could be forwarded to the US to help them in the war against terrorism," Lantion said.

The proposal came after the local intelligence community expressed the fear that Bin Laden has established terrorist cells in the country.

Bin Laden, who reportedly has a Filipino wife in Sulu, has a brother-in-law named Mohammed Khalifa who has supported Muslim scholars in the South. Intelligence agents fear the scholars could be "sleeper" units who could be activated at anytime.

Alvarez accusers deny bribery try

THE MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (Maso) yesterday denied offering a bribe to a witness to testify against Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez who is facing plunder charges before the Ombudsman.

"We categorically deny the reported attempted bribe," Maso said in a press statement.

"We state that there was no bribe. The witness came forward and claimed that he was sick of the anomalies he was part of . . . He willingly offered the evidence presented to the Ombudsman," Maso said.

Venner Mendoza had submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman Friday an affidavit retracting the statement, which was the basis for the plunder case filed against Alvarez.

In the retraction, he accused Maso officials of offering a $200,000 bribe to testify against Alvarez.

Maso said the bribe story "is only smoke screen" to divert the attention of the public from real issues.

"This only means that Alvarez is "desperate and employing dirty tactics," Maso said.

Maso filed last week a plunder case against Alvarez using Mendoza's supposed affidavit as the basis. But Mendoza's retraction is threatening to derail the case.

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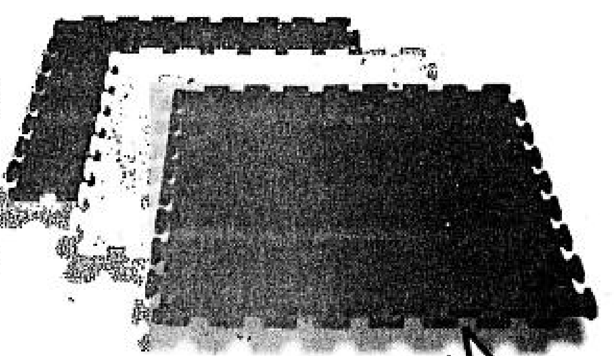

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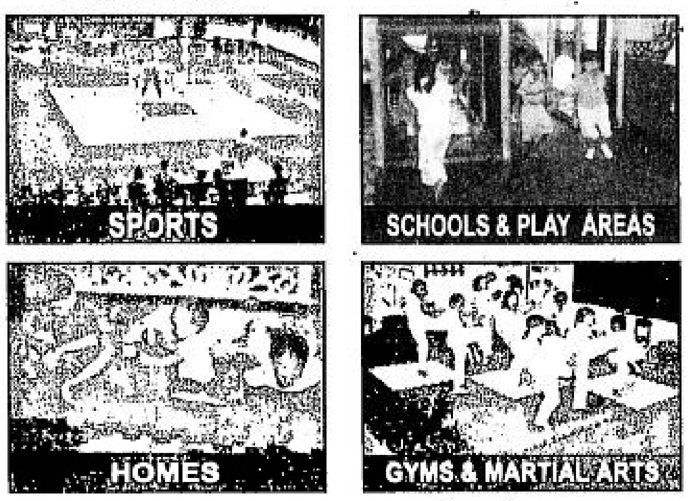

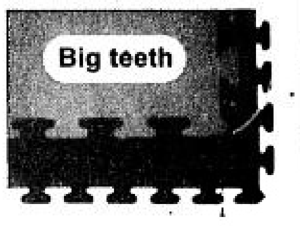

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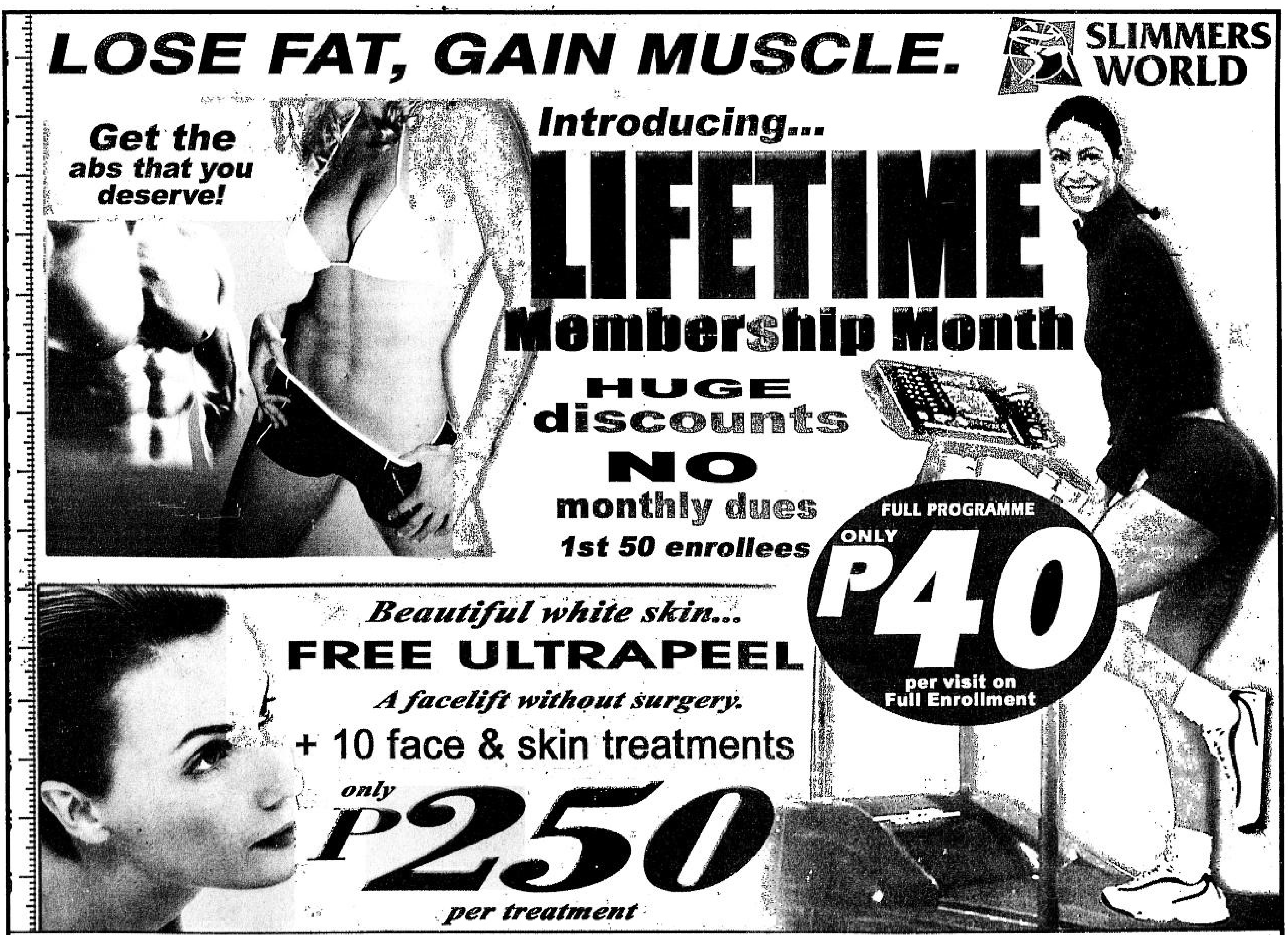

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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 281
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at **Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines** • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Is it war?

EDITORIAL

THE VOTE in the US House of Representatives was 420 to 1. With only one member dissenting, 420 US congressmen last Friday approved a resolution authorizing President George W. Bush to use force against those responsible for last week's strikes at the US. The overwhelming majority of Americans—7 in 10—are in favor of a military response even if it should result in a long war that causes a big number of US military casualties.

Almost everybody in the United States is rarin' to go to war—this, at a time when the enemy has not been definitely identified. Oh, yes, there's Osama bin Laden, one of the usual suspects and the No. 1 hate target of those who have experienced the effects of terrorism in the United States. It is said that all the signs point to him.

The grief, the outrage and the anger of the Americans are understandable. It is understandable and perhaps acceptable to lose thousands of combatants in a conventional, and even in a non-conventional war. But to lose thousands of innocent civilians and non-combatants in attacks by a faceless, secret enemy is simply unacceptable. The whole civilized world recoils from the barbarism, the horror of it.

But in its anger and outrage, America may act rashly and do the very things that it is accusing its enemy of doing. Probably it should listen to what the lone dissenter in the US House of Representatives said. Rep. Barbara Lee, a Democrat, urged her colleagues "to think through the implications of our action so that it does not spin out of control." She said, "Some of us must urge the use of restraint."

Or listen to the counsel of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin who appealed for sobriety and urged the faithful not to respond to the terrorist attacks on the United States with brute force. Sin said that an attitude of "counter-violence" would not take out the source of all violence because it would counter "hatred with hatred, terror with terror, thereby giving rise to a spiral of violence."

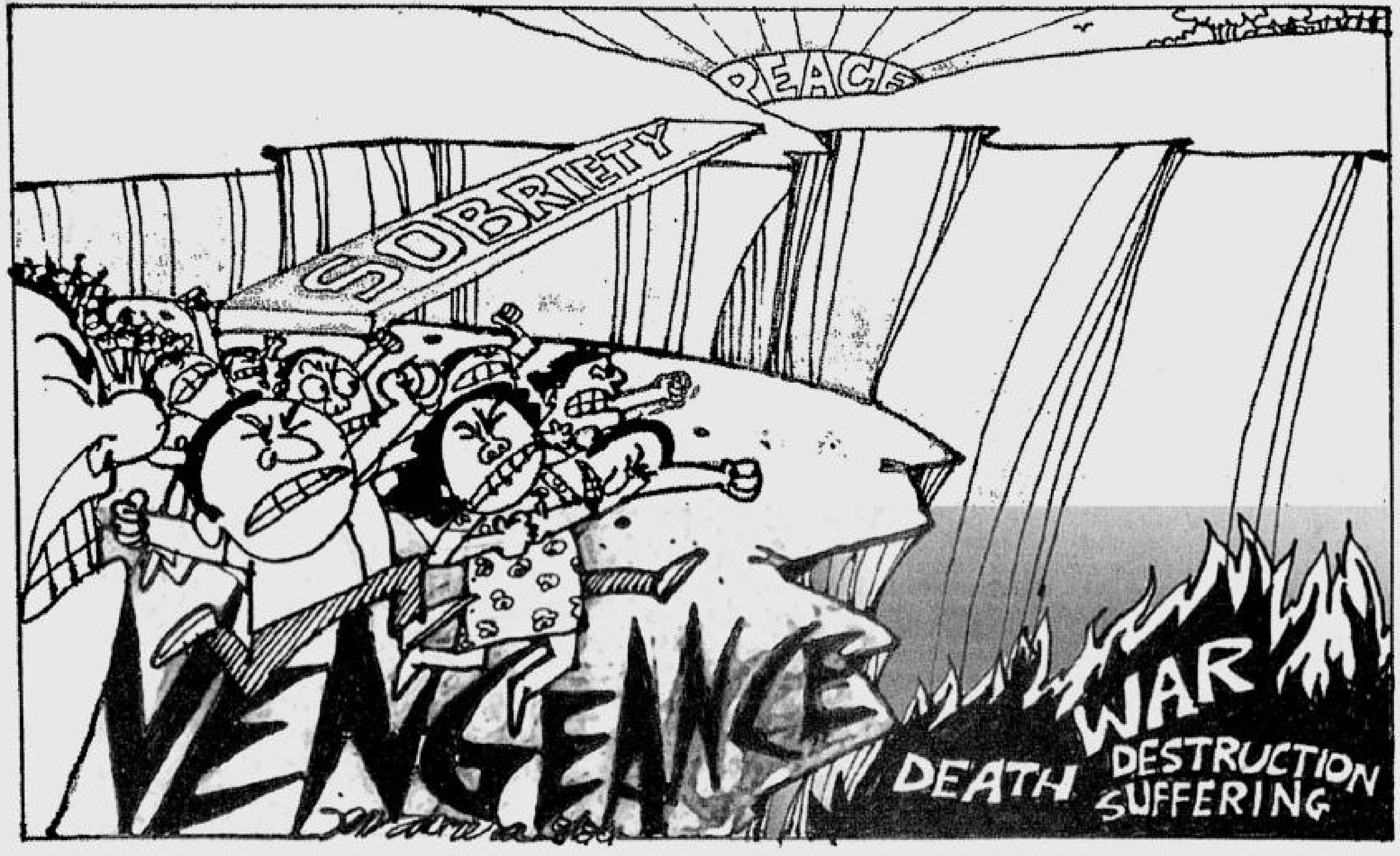
Of course it would be too much, in the present instance, to ask America to "turn the other cheek" or to "give bread to those who would throw stones at you." The injury is much too great to be forgiven, the wounds are much too deep to be forgotten. The crime committed against America and the civilized world cries out to heaven for justice and reparation.

But how is justice to be done? By bombing the Taliban of Afghanistan, who are believed to be harboring Osama bin Laden, to kingdom come? By arresting and detaining every bearded, Arab-looking, suspicious-looking man until he can prove his innocence? By ostracizing, cursing, harming and, probably, even killing Muslims and Arabs? At a time when passions are running high, leaders and people alike have to listen to those who counsel sobriety and calm. "In violence, we forget who we are," the writer Mary McCarthy said.

On one hand, there is a need to counsel sobriety and calm at a time when most people are crying out for vengeance and for blood. On the other hand, there is a need to finally crush the ogre of terrorism so that it may not be able, ever, to rear its head again. Which could mean the conduct of an all-out war on an international scale.

If what the United States and the rest of the civilized world want is justice for the thousands who died in last Tuesday's attacks, the first order of the day should be to identify those who planned, directed and committed the heinous acts, arrest them and bring them to trial. Then a massive, global attack has to be undertaken to dismantle the infrastructure of terror that has held many parts of the world in its grip for the past three or four decades.

In World War II, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and hastened the end of the war in the Pacific. Those who defend the US action say that it prevented a greater evil, which was the death of many more thousands, both combatants and non-combatants, had the invasion of Japan dragged on for many years. Could an all-out global war bring about a similar result: stop the spread of international terrorism now and avert the killing of thousands of innocent civilians?



More onerous provisions of Terminal 3 contract

(Continued from yesterday)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CONTINUING the onerous provisions of the contract between the government and the Philippine Air Terminal Co. Inc. (Piatco) on the construction and operation of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport:

8. The financial provisions of the concession agreement are loaded in favor of Piatco at the expense of the government. Piatco will rake in the money while the government will be left holding a near-empty bag.

For its 25-year lease on 65 hectares of land, Piatco will pay a token rental of only one percent of the appraised value of P250 per square meter, with a yearly increase of 10 percent of one percent.

Piatco will collect a terminal fee of $20 (P1,200) per passenger (the current terminal fee is only P500). For the first two years, the government will get only 5 percent of that fee, graduating to 7 percent from the 6th to the 15th years, then 10 percent from the 16th to 25th years.

The agreement likewise allows Piatco to unilaterally adjust, at its sole discretion and at any time, "without need for the consent of GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) or any government agency," the rates of the dues, rentals, charges, fees or assessment collected and levied for the use of the terminal complex.

9. The agreement establishes a Piatco monopoly not only at Naia Terminal 3 but on the whole island of Luzon.

Under the "Amended and Restated Concession Agreement," the government is contractually obligated not to carry over existing and valid contracts of concessionaires at Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

All concessions will be awarded by Piatco. In short, Piatco and its affiliate, Philippine Airport and Ground Services Inc. (PAGS) will wield total and exclusive control over Terminal 3 operations.

The DOTC and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) would thus be unable to protect the interests of the government and the public because its authority over the concessionaires, lessees, tenants and employees of the terminal complex will be given away to Piatco.

In canceling existing concession agreements to the prejudice of current service operators, the government would be exposed to liability for damages. Piatco would not be exposed to such liabilities as the company would be "free and harmless" in the event of suits. Breach of the existing agreements will result in the loss of employment for more than 10,000 employees and workers in Terminals 1 and 2.

10. This monopoly will extend beyond Terminal 3.

The agreement bars the government from establishing any other international airport in Luzon over a 25-year period.

The development of Clark International Airport will be frozen, its capacity limited to 850,000 passengers a year, until such time that the capacity of Terminal 3 reaches 10 million passengers annually for three consecutive years.

Terminal 1 and 2 would be phased out.

Whoever drafted or helped draft the contract (was it then MIAA Assistant Manager Pantaleon Alvarez?) is a shrewd lawyer and whoever signed it for the government deserves to be convicted of plunder. Lethal injection is too kind a punishment for him. He deserves life imprisonment in a *bartolina*.

* * *

Speaking of plunder, the Supreme Court en banc will hear today oral arguments on the petition by former President Estrada to have the Anti-Plunder Law declared unconstitutional. After listening to the arguments by government and Estrada lawyers, the Court may render a decision immediately. If not, it is expected to come up with its decision within the week. There is so much interest in the issue and the public can't be kept waiting.

The Anti-Plunder Law was enacted by Congress to put a stop to the massive raids on the Treasury by government officials, as exemplified by those in the Marcos administration and thereafter. The first defendant under that law is Estrada. If convicted, he faces death by lethal injection. So he comes now before the highest court of the land asking it to declare the law unconstitutional.

Whatever decision the Court makes, opinions will be sharply divided. The debate will be fierce. Passions will be inflamed. Recriminations will fly thick and fast.

But whatever it is, let us all accept it gracefully. The justices are expected to decide it carefully on its merits.

The Anti-Plunder Law was not enacted for Estrada but for all the kleptocrats in government, but the Estrada case has sharply divided the nation.

Both pro-Estrada and anti-Estrada partisans are expected to show up at the Supreme Court today. A word of caution: It is likely that both groups will jeer at and taunt each other. Don't. The justices cannot be influenced by your actions and taunts anyway. Let them study the issues carefully so that they will be able to render a just decision.

Keep cool. Be calm. Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, Estrada's lead lawyer, should not lose his cool and rant in court if he does not get what he wants. After all, he was a member of the Senate that passed the law. On the other hand, if the Court should strike down the law, our lawmakers should go back to the drawing board and enact a law that hews closely to the spirit of the Constitution.

With so many kleptocrats in the government today, we can't afford not to have an Anti-Plunder Law. It is the only weapon the people have to protect themselves against—of all people—their own greedy, predatory public servants.

Flowers from the rubble

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT began as "terrorists," then became "Middle Eastern terrorists," then became "Arab extremists," then became "Islamic fundamentalists." These phrases do not just carry semantic differences, they carry whole worlds of meaning. And the way they have gone from one to the other represents a dangerous twist, or downturn, in American thinking, as America searches for clues to the identities of the authors of the atrocity in New York. By American thinking, I do not mean just the thinking of American leaders, though that clearly is the more disturbing, being the source of the articulation. But the thinking permeates the citizenry itself, as CNN's reports abundantly reveal.

Of course, the main suspect remains Osama Bin Laden, although no piece of evidence has pinned him down to it other than a footage showing him to be calling for a war of attrition, or jihad, against the United States. Months from now, CNN will have no end of footage showing George Bush calling for a war of attrition, or jihad, against "democracy's enemies"—it is not just an act of terrorism, he has repeatedly said, it is a declaration of war, to which America will respond by waging what amounts to its own a holy war—those enemies being defined by the terms above. One can only hope the Arabs do not hold him responsible for every bombing or act of terrorism that happens in the Muslim world from here on.

Of course, all countries have the right to feel outraged when aggrieved. All countries have the right to cry in pain when wounded. All countries have a right to seek redress when wronged. All countries have a right to seek justice when oppressed. But that is not an excuse for indiscriminate labeling, which can only fan the flames of hatred and lead to a spiraling cycle of violence. Certainly, a country with the capacity for apocalypse cannot afford it. To whom much is given, though unwillingly, much is expected, though grudgingly.

The problem with "Arab extremists" and "Islamic fundamentalists" is that they are hoary shibboleths where the noun tends to disappear and only the adjective remains. People—least of all Americans—do not tend to remember the extremism and fundamentalism, they tend to remember the Arab and Islamic. These enemies, Bush has said, "hate freedom," "they hate our way of life." You equate those enemies with Arabs and Muslims, which is the inevitable result of these labels—CNN has already reported cases of Arabs and Muslims being threatened or harassed in various parts of America—and you have a powder keg waiting to be lit.

In fact, terrorists do not just hate the way of life of Americans, they hate the way of life of all civilized humanity. They hate the way of life of all freedom-loving peoples. They hate the way of life of all religions. They hate the way of life of all reasonable Christians, they hate the way of life of all reasonable Hindus and Buddhists, they hate the way of life of all reasonable Muslims. Fundamentalism is not endemic to any particular religion. There are as many Christian fanatics as there are Muslim ones, and the results of their fundamentalism are no less catastrophic. Pat Robertson was one such Christian fundamentalist, and he was not called a terrorist. He was called a spiritual adviser to Ronald Reagan. In that capacity, he helped a tyrannical government in El Salvador torture and/or kill thousands of El Salvadorans, Christians and non-Christians alike.

On the same footing with this, the sudden upsurge of patriotism and sense of solidarity and purpose among Americans is admirable. But there is a difference between patriotism and jingoism, there is a difference between finding common cause with the human community and closing ranks to flex muscle. History shows that the two are not always clear to Americans, least of all on the occasions when they perceive themselves, real or imagined, to be deeply hurt.

That was the case with the apparent sinking of the warship Maine off the coast of Cuba before the end of the 19th century, a curious incident which Randolph Hearst promptly attributed to the Spaniards and which began the American-Spanish War. That spawned a widespread outcry in the US that the hawks in Washington exploited to mount their imperialist venture, one that was bitterly opposed by people like Mark Twain who vainly kept reminding fellow Americans of their democratic tradition.

That was the case as well with the very real bombing of Pearl Harbor before the middle of the 20th century, an act of terrorism that dragged the United States, which had thereto protested Hitler's invasion of Europe only with words, to war. It led to a widespread outcry in the US that not only made the atomic-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki possible, but that led to many Japanese-Americans being interred in a camp in an island off San Francisco.

That may be the case today.

The world mourns for America. We, Filipinos, in particular who have relatives and friends there, some of them in New York. But when you hear words like "Arab extremists" and "Islamic fundamentalists" being thrown about with reckless abandon, when you see surveys showing that many Americans want something, anything, done to appease their fury, when you hear of Arabs in America being attacked and cursed, your grief turns to alarm.

I've always thought America's search for life beneath the rubble was a spiritual as much as physical one. I've always thought that what Americans needed to hear in the midst of the tragedy were not just cries and whispers in cellular phones to indicate the people buried under rock and ash were still alive, but the faint stirrings of conscience to show that compassion and a deep sense of humanity had not been buried as well in rock and ash in the American heart. The compassion and sense of humanity that make people who have suffered grievously vow never to see other people suffer the same way.

They discover that, and they may yet pluck life from death. They discover that, and they may yet seize victory from utter defeat.

Subic-Clark road to open up Central, Northern Luzon

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE 67,000-hectare Subic Bay Freeport and the 33,653-hectare Clark Special Economic Zone became the special focus of President Macapagal's working visit to Tokyo, with the signing and exchange of notes on the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway project. The 47.5-km. dedicated toll highway will be funded by a special Japanese loan package under the Obuchi Fund amounting to $425 million. The deal was signed by Bases Conversion Development Authority Chair Rogelio Singson and Japanese authorities, with Ms Macapagal and SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo as witnesses. If there was any bacon to be brought home, this was it.

* * *

The strategic importance of this new highway lies in the fact that it will link up the two former US bases now turned into special economic zones, and open up Central and Northern Luzon to trade. Once completed, it will provide these areas' producers and exporters easier and faster access to Asian markets through the Subic port, acknowledged as one of the world's best deep-water ports, and Clark's 1,620-hectare civil aviation complex. Where the Subic port could once accommodate 600 American ships, hopefully now more commercial ships will service the industrial parks in this former premier US naval facility. In an earlier agreement, the Japanese government also guaranteed the completion of Subic international port at a cost of $215 million from the Obuchi Fund.

* * *

After the signing, Payumo told this columnist that the Subic-Clark highway is part of the master plan for the development of Central Luzon which was finished in 1995, right after the devastation of that area caused by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. Payumo, then a first-term representative from Bataan, recalled that President Macapagal was then trade undersecretary and they were both very much involved in drawing up this plan, which drew up all data on infrastructure, resources, etc. on the region. In fact, he said, if the Obuchi Fund became available to the Philippines ahead of some other countries in the region, it was doubtless due to the fact that the CL master plan was already available.

Also part of this plan is to complete the 10-km. Subic-Morong Road, and to fully develop the 365-hectare Bataan Techno Park, which is considered an expansion area of Subic in the light of the saturation of certain areas in the freeport, such as 153-hectare Subic Bay Industrial Park of the Taiwanese group. The development of this area, once hard-hit by the Pinatubo disaster, is exciting to contemplate.

* * *

A welcome call on President Macapagal during her working visit was made by officials of Sankyo Seiki Manufacturing Ltd., led by its president, Yuzo Oguchi, who apprised her of the progress of the company's $100-million plant that will be finished next month in the Subic Technopark. This 70-hectare industrial estate is the Japanese answer to the Taiwanese investors' estate in Subic, led by the computer firm Acer. Sankyo Seiki plans to start manufacturing micro motors for hard disc drives and step-in motors for floppy drives in a 3.7-hectare covered plant by December, targeting about 2.4 million motors by March 2002.

Sankyo will open with about 500 Filipino workers, some of whom have trained in Japan, but the goal to employ 3,000 Filipino workers by next year. Oguchi, whom I met through Payumo together with the firm's Filipino representative, lawyer Leocadio de Asis, is optimistic that despite the current slump in the computer business worldwide, his Subic plant will perform well and that ultimately they can double the number of Filipino workers employed as well as the capital sunk into Subic.

* * *

I asked the Sankyu president why he chose Subic, and he stressed that this was in line with his company's policy of "spreading the risk in the region." He pointed out that Sankyo has eight plants in China, four in Indonesia and one in Malaysia. Oguchi also said the Philippines offers many distinct advantages for his company, like the security and facilities available at Subic Freeport, its proximity to Japan, and the Filipino labor force's trainability and facility in English.

In this connection, there's a petition from the growing Japanese business community in Subic to allow Philippine Air Lines to make a stopover in Subic. PAL flies from Manila to Narita/Kansai/Fukuoka in Japan 14 times a week. A once-weekly flight would enable Japanese workers to go to Japan without going to Manila. Subic Technopark president Toshio Harada, who requested Payumo to bring this request to Ms Macapagal's attention, also pointed out that such a flight would not only boost business but also the tourism industry in Subic, not to mention helping the Filipinos working in Japan who live in Central Luzon.

* * *

Since November 2000, this column has been helping publicize the year-long lecture series launched by the Carmelite Monastery in Gilmore, New Manila, to mark the diamond anniversary of its founding. The series has featured distinguished religious and secular speakers on a wide variety of topics, and the talks have been held in various universities and colleges in Metro Manila. Tomorrow, Sept. 19, the Carmelite lecture series will feature Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J., renowned theologian and mariologist, who will speak on "Bayang Sumisinta kay Maria: Hypothesis & Questions," and "The Role of Mary in the History of Our Country." Father Arevalo's talk will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the Cardinal Sin Center, Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City. The public is invited.

* * *

The Carmelites point out that Father Arevalo's lecture on Mary as the "star of the evangelization" is very timely, as it comes during a week that has been very troubling for the world, in view of the international terrorism unleashed on two US cities one week ago today. The sisters recall the words of Pope John Paul II that the new millennium is going to be a "millennium of peace through prayer," a "contemplative age," especially since it appears that people in the US and in the world, including us Filipinos, seem to be moved to a kind of closeness with God following the harrowing tragedies. In the past week millions around the world have gathered in churches, mosques, synagogues and other places of worship in an effort to contain spiritually this international tragedy, even as the Western powers appear to be preparing for all-out war against Osama Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the attacks. Prayers, stress the Carmelites, are the better recourse.

Saudis in a dilemma

NEWS ANALYSIS

William Maclean

DUBAI—Not for a decade has conservative Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, confronted a more uncomfortable set of choices in its dealings with key ally the United States, analysts and diplomats say. The oil superpower can join America in hunting down the suspected extremist Muslim perpetrators of last week's terror attacks and be seen by many Arabs as the puppet of Uncle Sam. Or it can refuse to help and thereby enrage the powerful friend that believes it is owed a favor by the kingdom for its leadership of the coalition that ejected Iraq from Kuwait in 1991 and thereby removed a threat to Saudi Arabia's existence.

Diplomats say US and Saudi intelligence agencies are cooperating closely to hunt those behind the suicide-hijacks that killed thousands in New York and Washington on Tuesday. How far that cooperation will go is as yet unclear.

It is an uncomfortable yet familiar quandary for a country that agreed to the sudden influx of more than half a million mostly American soldiers in 1990 to help expel Iraq from Kuwait. The move offended the religious sensibilities of some among the country's deeply conservative majority, who saw an Iraqi incursion into Saudi territory and Iraqi missile attacks as no excuse for the deployment's alleged desecration of sacred soil.

But the dilemmas posed by US requests for help following last week's attacks are far more complex than those of 1990, in part because Saudi Arabia itself is not under threat, a key justification used by the government during the Gulf crisis. And it is possible some of its own citizens took part in last week's outrages, as may have been the case in bomb attacks on US military targets in Saudi Arabia in the mid-1990s.

"Now it's indescribably more difficult," said John Anthony, president of the National Council on US-Arab Relations. "What happened in 1990 had the crystal clarity of a rape. It was a conventional armed invasion of a sovereign state. None of that applies now."

Neil Patrick of the Royal United Services Institute added: "There's no comparison with 1990. We are not dealing with a state actor, as far as we know. Gulf Arabs will feel vulnerable because the Americans will want some sort of help in supporting a military assault."

For the moment, the most important assistance the kingdom can provide is intelligence information about the prime suspect, Saudi-born multi-millionaire Osama Bin Laden, and the Taliban movement that has given him refuge in Afghanistan, analysts say.

"The Saudis bring something very important to the table: intelligence. The number of Americans of non-Arab origin who are conversant in Arabic or Pashto is minuscule," said Anthony.

But Saudi cooperation would be enhanced if the kingdom was confident that America would avoid acting rashly. "International relations involve a degree of reciprocity and respect for others and cannot be a one-way street," he said.

"Such realities can easily be lost sight of in the rush to hubris of those (Americans) who would rant and rave."

He said that if there was a broad agreement between the Saudis and Americans over the identity of possible culprits, "then the chances for enhanced cooperation are buoyed."

There is no love lost between Saudi Arabia and Bin Laden. Riyadh stripped the militant zealot of his nationality in 1994 because of his activities against the royal family.

But Arab commentators say the evident desire of the United States to carry out sustained, large-scale military retaliation that could lead to enormous loss of Muslim life in Afghanistan, or its mostly Muslim neighbors, could be a destabilizing factor for any Arab state agreeing to be part of a US-led coalition.

The consequences of that would be especially pronounced in Saudi Arabia, where Islam emerged 14 centuries ago and which sees itself as the world's principal advocate of pure Islam.

"There will be massive retaliation. It's not going to be two or three Tomahawks (cruise missiles)—the Americans might put up to 10,000 people on the ground (in any combat zone)," said a senior European diplomat who toured the Middle East last week. "In a region where some people feel the Americans got what they deserved, it will be difficult for public opinion to accept that their governments are doing what the Americans want."

Some Saudi analysts point out that in the event of military action against Afghanistan there would be no need for Saudi Arabia to host additional Western military forces. This time, that role might well fall to Pakistan. But a demand for Saudi logistical support cannot be ruled out.

"The real pressure is going to be on Pakistan, not Saudi Arabia," said Saudi businessman and author Hani Yamani.

"But I think the Saudis would have no problem with providing a symbolic presence in any coalition (in the event of an assault on Bin Laden's associates). And we could live with the deployment of 40 to 50 FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) agents based in the US embassy in Saudi."

Reuters

The Nueva Vizcaya earthquake of 1881 (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE RANGE on either side of the Cruz del Caraballo rose 1,195 meters above sea level in a great solid bulk addressing itself in the southwest toward the Cordillera Central of Luzon and in the east to the Sierra Madre. Descending on the opposite side of the Caraballo to Nueva Vizcaya, the same rock formations as those surrounding the Camarin de Salazar were seen without any variation in the diorite rocks.

Upon reaching Aritao, the horizon broadened a bit although still limited by the sides that formed the great valley of the province and the landing of the waters into the Mingolin River in the east and west. The principal valley from Aritao widened to form a plain of muddy clay to the end of the province in the north. This was the only land under cultivation despite the fertile mountainsides that could have been planted advantageously to coffee or cacao. Mt. Palali, one of the most important masses of the Sierra Madre, rose in front of Bayombong, the capital of the province.

On horseback, crossing the barrio of Tanibong from Aritao to Dupax, Abella and his party heard a thunderclap emanating from the north. Abella raised his sight to the cloud formation that crowned the mountaintops surrounding them.

Not even five seconds passed when their horses stopped and took a more stable position by separating their legs as though balancing. As the horses glanced nervously from left to right, the party felt a brutal and almost vertical movement of the earth followed by a horizontal one so considerable that the road appeared to move a meter and a half. The earth seemed to puff up and open and close in a continuous manner and a multitude of cracks measuring one to two meters appeared through which water gushed out and formed puddles.

These frightening phenomena were accompanied by the sound of the waves of movement. Shrubs and stalks along the barrio yards swayed and crashed into each other. All this lasted 50 to 55 seconds, and then everything returned to normal and an ominous silence settled, interrupted only by the drone of prayers and the trampling of horses' hoofs as they continued on their march.

The distinctive character of those shocks, especially toward the center of the province, was their vertical movement of great intensity though of short duration. However, there were moments of prolonged seismic activity when the jolts continued without interruption.

The epicenter was believed to have been close to the center of the province, near the town of Bambang, to judge from the clarity of the thunder and as well as the fact that the time that transpired between the sound and the movement was much less in that town and its surroundings. Bambang also suffered the most damage in its structures. The tribunal building was destroyed, one school practically quartered and the other leveled, the convent crushed and the church damaged. All these structures had wooden roofs covered with cogon.

It was observed, according to the parish priest of Bambang, that some time toward the end of July the River Aboat, a tributary of the Magat in the neighborhood of the town, became repeatedly dry and remained so for some two hours after which the waters reappeared in considerable volume with a red color and then normalized.

* * *

Reading Abella's account more than 100 years later, it is difficult not to remember the damage of the 1990 earthquake that brought down all those buildings in northern Luzon and killed so many people. Most of the structures did not of course meet safety standards and one cannot help but wonder whether the type of muddy soil Abella mentioned was taken into consideration by the engineers and architects when the structures were built.

As a matter of fact, Baguio again resorted to high-rise construction and structures on the denuded hillsides continued to be built. Seeing that the country is situated in the so-called earthquake belt, do the poor whom officials profess to love with such intensity not deserve some consideration? The rain alone brings mudslides and buries them alive every year. What more another earthquake of the same magnitude as the last?

There appears little effort to actually relocate the masses from the Baguio hillsides and to replant these with fir saplings. It may of course be that officials find all these symbols of poverty a better tourist attraction than the smell of pine and the sight of green forests. Anything is possible these days.

You must have noticed that we are often described as a poor country and people have begun to believe that this is so. Yet for a poor country, the amounts stolen by officials are in the hundreds of millions. Even retirement benefits for government workers are in the millions. Are we poor because of the lack of resources or are we poor because the money ends up in official pockets?

The Philippines in 1881 was lucky because the area where the epicenter of the earthquake took place was sparsely populated. What will we do when the next one hits?

Beyond crowning glory

YOUNGBLOOD

D.A.L.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"*MUKHA kang natipos*!"

That was what my mom said the first time she saw me with my latest haircut. She stared at me in disbelief, touched my hair as if to make sure she wasn't just imagining it, and hit me on the head for "not valuing her opinion anymore."

I had my haircut on the first day of school, two days after I had it cut by my *tita*. She had her own parlor in her younger days and has long considered herself retired. But when my mom and I visited her, I asked her to cut my hair. She used to do it when I was a little girl, and until my fourth year in high school, I did not dare trust anyone else with my hair.

After discovering that I liked the style of this gay hairdresser, I outgrew my dear *tita* and followed this gay who moved from parlor to parlor.

When I started college and stayed in Quezon City, I found Barbie at David's Salon, liked her style and availed myself of her services every time I went there. Since I moved to Prince David condominium, I tried HairBytes for a change, and though it costs much more than David's Salon, I keep coming back because I fell in love with how my new hairdresser, Martin, does my hair.

I decided I wanted my hair even shorter than how it was after my *tita* cut it. But my mom has this ability to read my mind when I least want her to, and she warned me not to dare do anything with my hair. When we spent our summer vacation in the United States, I kept bugging her about red highlights and she swore we'd get into a fight if I ever did. I didn't risk it, but instead ended up with this washable red hair color spray, that for a time I used every day. Right after she left the condo, I went to Hairbytes with my allowance in my pocket.

My mom visits me in the condo during weekends. That week, she came on a Friday night, and upon seeing my hair, she was furious until Sunday night. I didn't think I could stand it, but I did, and after what I went through with my mom, I knew I could survive anything. "*Mukha kang* cancer patient *na nagki-chemo! Ba't hinayaan mong maputpot ang buhok mo? Para kang may palong ng manok*," my mom would say, sometimes with a disdainful laugh, and looking like she was staring at an alien. My favorite though, was when she shook her head reproachfully and said, "*Grabe. ibang iba ka na talaga. Nagpunta ka lang ng* States, *ang laki na nang ipinagbago mo*."

I couldn't help but snap. For heaven's sake, I just cut my hair! Why was she reacting as if I had turned into this bad girl all of a sudden? Her reaction couldn't have been worse if I had gotten a part of my body pierced or tattooed. Not that I have anything against body piercing or tattoos, but it's just that all I did was cut my hair really short, the shortest ever in my whole life, and it seemed like something extremely inconsiderate, even rebellious. Surprisingly, my mom said that she would have liked it better if I had gotten highlights instead of this "horrible" haircut.

I couldn't see what was so horrible about my hair. I liked it. It was different from all the other hairstyles I had. I went from straight to layered to short to permed to super-short. I went through more or less 10 different styles since my first year in college and loved every single one of them, although all not instantly. I haven't been able to grow my hair past chin level since then, even if there were times when I decided I would. Ironically, just when I had decided that I wanted to grow my hair long, I would get a haircut a few days afterwards.

I am currently sporting a short, layered cut that requires me to use gel or mousse for a wet—sometimes rumpled when I feel like it—look. I've always wanted something low maintenance, and that's probably the reason I keep my hair short. Interestingly, my friends have noted that I do something different with my hair every time I go through a crisis. There could be a correlation, but the way I see it, it's more an assertion of an I-don't-care attitude, which is, yes, probably my way of coping during a crisis.

It may be a defense mechanism, or my subconscious craving for attention (*Uy, bagong* hair!) or just a reflection of who I am. In some sense, my mom was right about my rebelliousness. I'm pretty much a good girl (even my parents, relatives, teachers and friends will tell you that) and one of the few ways I get to express my independence and rebelliousness is through my hair.

Actually, I express myself through my hair, whether it be because of a crisis or because I just want a change in my life. It may be shallow, trying to change something in my life by changing my hair, but more than the superficial, changing hairstyles is like a concrete, visible expression of moving on.

Since I started college, I never stuck to a hairstyle for long. Constantly changing it is like being on a quest, a journey, where I am still looking for something that I want to live with, for, by and through for a long time. Maybe just like my constantly evolving self, so are my hairstyles constantly changing.

A friend once told me that I had a very strong individual streak which is concretely manifested in the kind of hairstyles I wear, among others. But more than not caring about what other people think, it is also about caring for myself. Having a haircut is taking a risk and having faith, not knowing if your hairdresser will be able to copy the style from that magazine you're holding. For me, it's about not caring about how it turns out and knowing beforehand that you'll like it, however horrible it might be.

Maybe I am deluding myself into believing that my hair right now looks good on me. Maybe my friends have been polite enough not to tell me that it's terrible, and one of them may just be candid enough to say that I look like one of those Koreans studying in McDonalds Katipunan at night. But hey, what matters is I like it and I feel good about it. God knows what I'll do next to my hair (I've been seriously considering going bald) but until then, I'm just letting me, or rather, it (my hair) be.

D.A.L., 18, is a junior at the Ateneo de Manila University.

THEY SAID

Ultimate goal

"Now that war has been declared on us, we will lead the world to victory."

—United States President George Bush

Fighting terrorism

"One has to say it's not just simply a matter of capturing people and holding them accountable, but removing the sanctuaries, removing the support systems, ending states who sponsor terrorism."

—United States Secretary of State Colin Powell

Priorities

"Our people need jobs, food on the table, shelter over their heads and education for their children…not more of negative, destructive politics."

—House Speaker Jose De Venecia, backing a proposal to have a six-month moratorium on investigations

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Wrong info on replacement of top Customs official

IN THE INTEREST of fairness and justice, we wish to correct the misimpressions that may have been created by the column of Neal Cruz, particularly the allegation that Deputy Commissioner Emma M. Rosqueta is being booted out of the Bureau of Customs for her refusal to sign the recommendation for approval of the SGS claims in relation to pre-shipment inspection services rendered under contract with the government. The information is not true, and is intended to misinform.

Consider the following facts:

1. The work of the Joint Bureau of Customs-SGS Review Committee is not yet finished and, therefore, there is no final report that would require Rosqueta's signature.

Created in April 2001 on the instructions of then Finance Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, the Joint BoC-SGS Review Committee has been tasked to reconcile the SGS billings with BoC findings for the purpose of determining the "legal and fair" amount due the SGS. Rosqueta was designated chair of the committee by the undersigned. Aside from her, the committee includes four other customs professionals as members.

2. If the column referred to the preliminary committee report submitted to the finance secretary on May 3, 2001, Rosqueta, with all the other members, signed that report. She had reservations on two of the 10 issues under consideration. But she agreed with the rest of the committee members on the CHF 104,677,347.98 (approximately P3 billion) of the contested amount tentatively considered payable to the SGS.

3. A final report of the Joint BoC-SGS Committee is merely recommendatory and subject to review and approval by the finance secretary.

4. The chair of the Joint BoC-SGS Review Committee does not automatically go to Rosqueta's possible replacement. In fact, it would not be advisable for a newcomer to be made a member of the committee.

Firstly, there is a vice chair, who could very well take over in the absence of the chair, or replace her if warranted.

Secondly, the individual grasp of the committee members of the issues involved is a product of long, tedious and complex processes. To designate a new member as chair would in effect force the committee to practically retrace and redo most of, if not the entire, reconciliation exercises undertaken this far and put to naught what the committee members, individually and as a team, have labored on and achieved after some time.

5. Suggestions that Rosqueta is being replaced because she was an appointee of the former president are not also true. President Macapagal has reappointed many Customs officials originally appointed by Estrada.

We would rather not comment on the merits of Rosqueta's replacement because she has filed cases with the Court of Appeals and Manila Regional Trial Court. We would rather let the courts decide the issue.

In sum, it is grossly unfair to link the Rosqueta-Valera case to the review of SGS liabilities. Rosqueta may be the chair of the committee, but she is not the Committee. Her signature alone will not make the committee report.—**TITUS B. VILLANUEVA, commissioner, Bureau of Customs**

Suggestions for attracting tourists

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon needs all the help he can get. Here are some suggestions to increase tourism:

1. He is bombarding us with press releases to help as a "personal responsibility." He should direct the barrage at the real target: people overseas.

2. He mentions the need to "discipline taxi drivers." He should start doing so by grounding all taxis with "broken" taxi meters.

3. He challenges hotels to give discounts. He should stop the racist discrimination of two-tier prices where locals pay less than foreign tourists.

4. He laments the drop in the number of tourists to 1.8 million from 2 million. This decrease coincides with the large increase of visa fees that so many tourists have complained about.

If we can't walk, we can't blame others because we have shot ourselves in the feet. No wonder Singapore gets 7 million tourists since we have 7.3 million workers overseas because of poor conditions at home like overpricing hotels and steep visa fees and "broken" taxi meters.—**EMIL SY, Camella Homes, Bacoor, Cavite**

Recovery of forex loses to improve water service

FREEDOM from Debt Coalition president Maitet Diokno-Pascual has made misleading and ill-informed allegations about Maynilad Water Services Inc. Allow us to set the record straight.

Firstly, Maynilad and the special committee that President Macapagal formed had a meeting of the minds three weeks ago. However, the MWSS has yet to formally approve the Malacañang alternative to the June 8 Memorandum of Cooperation that the latter set aside, to allow oppositor's like the FDC to argue their position.

In various meetings with FDC officers, we submitted data they sought from us. In a public consultation in which the FDC participated, Maynilad's customers unequivocably expressed approval for the accelerated recovery of its past and future foreign exchange losses due to the peso's massive devaluation since August 1997. Despite all this, the FDC remains afflicted with tunnel vision and closed minds.

The point is this. The recovery of foreign exchange losses will enable Maynilad to use its money for its originally intended purposes: to improve service coverage and delivery and reduce non-revenue water, the very issues Pascual accuses Maynilad of not doing.

Pascual insists that we cannot amend the concession agreement to accelerate the recovery of Maynilad's forex losses at net present value, when the agreement explicitly allows this. All parties directly concerned agree on this. Maynilad's customers themselves, especially the urban poor who buy vended water at 15 to 30 times more than Maynilad's price, have openly expressed approval for Maynilad's year-long request. So what is making FDC act in this outrageous manner?

Non-revenue water (NRW) is Pascual's case in point. She refuses to accept that NRW reduction is capital-intensive. Maynilad has close to 4,000 kilometers of pipes that need to be either replaced or repaired. Last year alone, Maynilad budgeted almost P1 billion for pipe and water meter replacement, leak detection and repair, and other support activities. With the non-recovery of its foreign exchange losses, the bulk of the program has been put on hold until fresh funds are obtained.

NRW reduction also requires government cooperation in the timely issuance of excavation permits to dig up streets. Sadly, it takes the government from four to six months to issue such permits.

NRW reduction also means the enforcement of the Water Crisis Act. Apprehending and prosecuting water thieves, however, is a responsibility of the criminal justice system and, therefore, the government's duty.

Nonetheless, Maynilad is spending for intelligence gathering and disconnection teams to deter further thievery. When it took over the concession in 1997, NRW was estimated at 67 percent; today, it is around 65 percent—still too much of a penalty for Maynilad to bear.

Maynilad, despite its financial constraints, has delivered: more than one million consumers have been connected to its system since 1997, over 40 percent of whom are urban poor; service coverage has increased from 58 percent of the service population of 7.5 million people in the West Zone, to approximately 83 percent today; 25,000 new consumers are added per month to the system. Only 35 percent of the total service population were enjoying 24-hour water supply in 1997. Today, that number has grown to around 89 percent. With more funds, Maynilad would have accomplished more. Internally, Maynilad has undertaken housecleaning and work standard upgrading.

The government's privatization policy hinges on the success of projects like Maynilad's. Maynilad's bankability and viability depends on cogency and cohesion of vision and purpose by, and the cooperation of, all concerned. This is what Maynilad's directors, management and employees have been struggling to attain all this time. Once achieved, then and only then should Maynilad open its doors to the investing public.

Benpres and Ondeo have $330 million of their money tied up in Maynilad, compared to its original commitment of $102 million. And $80 million in additional equity has been committed after Maynilad recovers its foreign exchange losses and obtains the $350-million term loan. Instead of blocking our efforts to make the project bankable and viable, the sensible thing to do is to support them to enable the concession to meet its long term commitments to the public.—**RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III, president, Maynilad Water Services Inc.**

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How Dumaguete got its name

THE FOLLOWING statements are found in the article titled "Silliman beside the sea observes 100th year today" by Alex Pal and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez:

"There's still the magic of Dumaguete that is not found in any other place in the Philippines," said Leah Sibala-Laurel, Miss Silliman of 1979.

"Dumaguete keeps drawing people to its shores. The moment you visit Dumaguete, it casts its spell on you," she said.

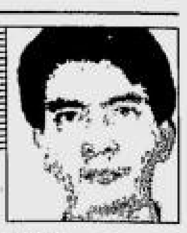
It's good to read such compliments about this enchanting place. It's also good to know why it's called Dumaguete.

According to old folks, the original name of this community is Managuit, a Cebuano word which means "poised to capture." This was because way back in earlier times, it was one of the places often raided by Moro pirates to capture people to be sold into slavery in Mindanao.

In the course of time, the people of Managuit, according to their way of thinking, decided that Dumaguit was better and smarter to say than Managuit. So, this was the name for some time. Over the years, however, people again were dissatisfied with the name of their place. They had the notion that the name Dumaguit had a rather unpleasant sound. So, they revised it again to Dumaguete, its present name, which they think is a little bit more pleasing to hear.—**VICENTE F. EBARLE, 22 Sta. Catalina St., Dumaguete City**

Live war

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

"WAR," "We're at War" scream the headlines of American newspapers in a tone that seems almost celebratory. The headlines merely echo the mood set by US President George Bush and other American leaders. Sadly, the surveys show an overwhelming majority of Americans support this call to war.

Media coverage has certainly contributed to this war hysteria, and in a paradoxical way. On one hand, the media have stoked the public's fury, keeping the indignation going with its thousands of replays of the two hijacked jets crashing into the World Trade Center towers, the blazing inferno that followed and the two towers collapsing. Yet all these scenes were silent: you never hear the explosions, or the implosions. One particularly ghastly scene was that of people falling or jumping off from the top floors of the building. Again, there were no sounds, just bodies falling through space. It was almost as if some unearthly power had pressed a "mute" button to silence the tragedy.

Here is the paradox: the television networks fan public indignation and yet sanitize the brutality and suffering that comes with wars. It was during the Gulf War 10 years ago that we first saw how satellite broadcasts enabled the world to watch wars unfolding, a caption on the screen reading "Live" to remind us we are watching all this in real time. We saw how Baghdad lit up at night as the United States sent in its cruise missiles. Even then I reacted, worried at how CNN's coverage had turned war into an antiseptic activity. Then as now in New York, there were no sounds, no shots of the wounded and the dead.

Time and time again, we find the same kind of footage on international television newscasts. The cameras now enable the world to watch wars live, from a safe distance. But this safe distance is dangerous, too, because it desensitizes us to the realities of war and violence.

Occasionally, you do get glimpses of war's inhumanity. Just last month, cameras caught the distress and fear in the faces of Catholic children in Belfast, as they tried to make their way to school through a Protestant area, pipe bombs going off in the air. They were sheltered by their parents and the police but that was clearly not enough to assure the children.

Almost a year ago, video cameras caught 12-year-old Muhammad al-Durrah, huddled next to his father as he sought refuge from the crossfire on a street corner in the Gaza strip. The cameras caught the entire scene as sniper fire snuffed out the young boy's life.

But such scenes fade quickly from public memory. Hollywood's recreation of war, this time on wide panoramic screens with full sound effects, has made us lose perspective, forgetting that wars' worst atrocities can never be captured on film. Wars lose context in movies and on television newscasts. The agony of people fleeing the bombs and waiting for days and weeks on end, dreading the next attack, is reduced to a few seconds on a newscast. We hear about the death toll but never get to see the mangled bodies. We hear of children starving and epidemics, but never get to see the faces of hunger and disease.

Television rarely goes into discussions of the roots of conflicts, wars and terrorism. As the newscasters drone out words like "fanatics" and "extremists," we think of terrorism as momentary acts of insanity. They are not. One of my graduate students is a pilot and he says that the terrorists who flew those planes had to have both great skill as well as steadfast resoluteness to weave those jets around New York's skyscrapers before ramming into their targets with deadly precision.

Again, the cameras will never capture how that murderous fanaticism is built, how people become totally indoctrinated into believing that they have a divine mandate to maim and to slaughter. There's more to all this than religious fanaticism. War creates, recruits these warriors—these are the ones who have themselves seen war. I am certain their indoctrination includes constant reminders about the suffering caused by the enemy, suffering that's only too real as the warriors remember the despair and fear on the faces of their people, the "boring" off-the-scene stuff that doesn't come out on television and in movies. Where do you think the word "obscene" comes from? For the Greeks, it was material so inhumane it could not be portrayed in theater scenes.

The other day CNN featured Americans singing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" with fervor that matched the original intention of the song: rallying soldiers to war. The song was written by Julia Ward Howe for northerners fighting slavery during the American Civil War. Howe became a pacifist after the war and in 1870, wrote a "Mother's Day Proclamation" with a passage that pledges: "Our husbands will not come to us, reeking of carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience."

Oh, if Howe could just see the wars we have today, live on television, the carnage put on mute.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

No money accountability with Comelec

I WISH to make the following correction and clarification on a news report about unaccounted Comelec funds by Donna Cueto.

In preparation for the ARMM election then scheduled for September 1999, the Comelec en banc appropriated the amount of P150,000 for my and the Comelec directors' participation in the scheduled seminar for ARMM registration conducted on May 4 to 6, 1999 inclusive of meetings in Zamboanga City, Marawi City and Sulu with the military officers, the mayors of the different towns of Sulu and the local Comelec officials concerned, to ensure peaceful and honest elections. During the en banc meeting, I advised all the commissioners present that I preferred the check to be issued in the name of Ma. Melinda P. Beluang of the Comelec secretariat who was one of my companions on the trip and who would act as the group's special disbursing officer. The check for P150,000 was then issued in her favor.

Upon our arrival in Manila, I immediately directed Beluang to submit her liquidation of the cash advance to the Comelec's finance services department and furnish the chair's office with a copy. She did as instructed.

In fact, I promptly discontinued the practice of my predecessors of granting of transportation allowance to all commissioners, including the chair, upon the advice of the COA resident auditor, Divina B. Mapa. As a consequence, I refunded the Comelec an amount of P44,000 on Aug. 26, 2000 as shown by a memorandum and receipt that I have.

As proof that I had no pending money or property accountability to the Comelec when I retired on Feb. 2, 2001, I have a copy of my comprehensive certificate of clearance signed by the Comelec. finance services department and its property division.

In this connection, I wish to call the attention of COA Chair Guillermo N. Carague to make the proper rectification.—**HARRIET O. DEMETRIOU, former chair, Commission on Election**

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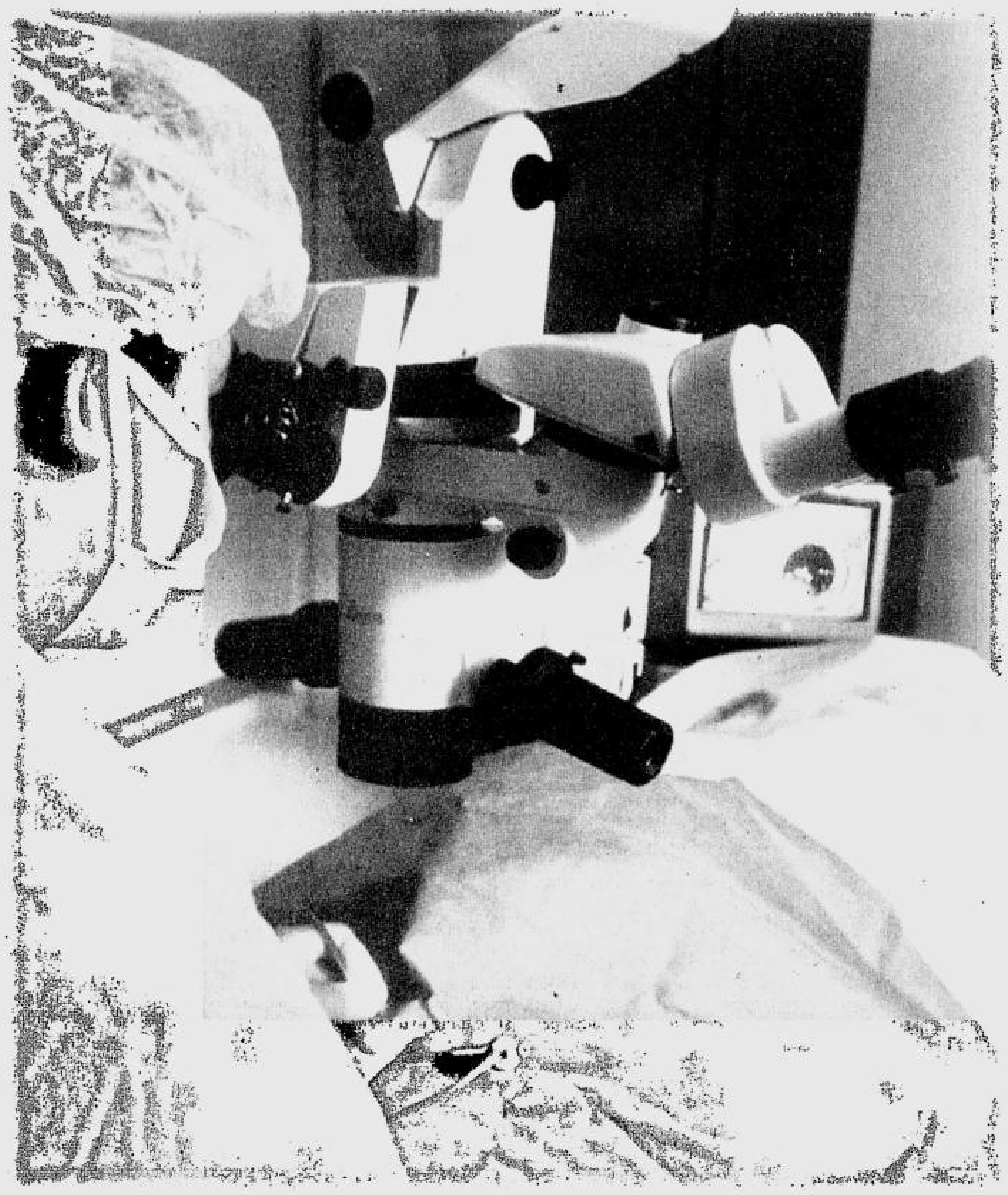

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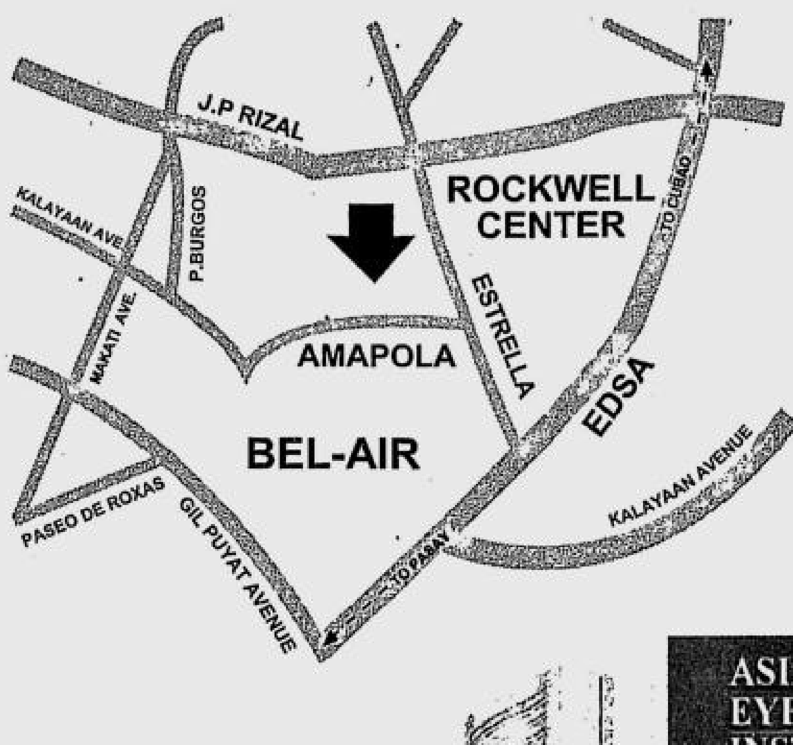

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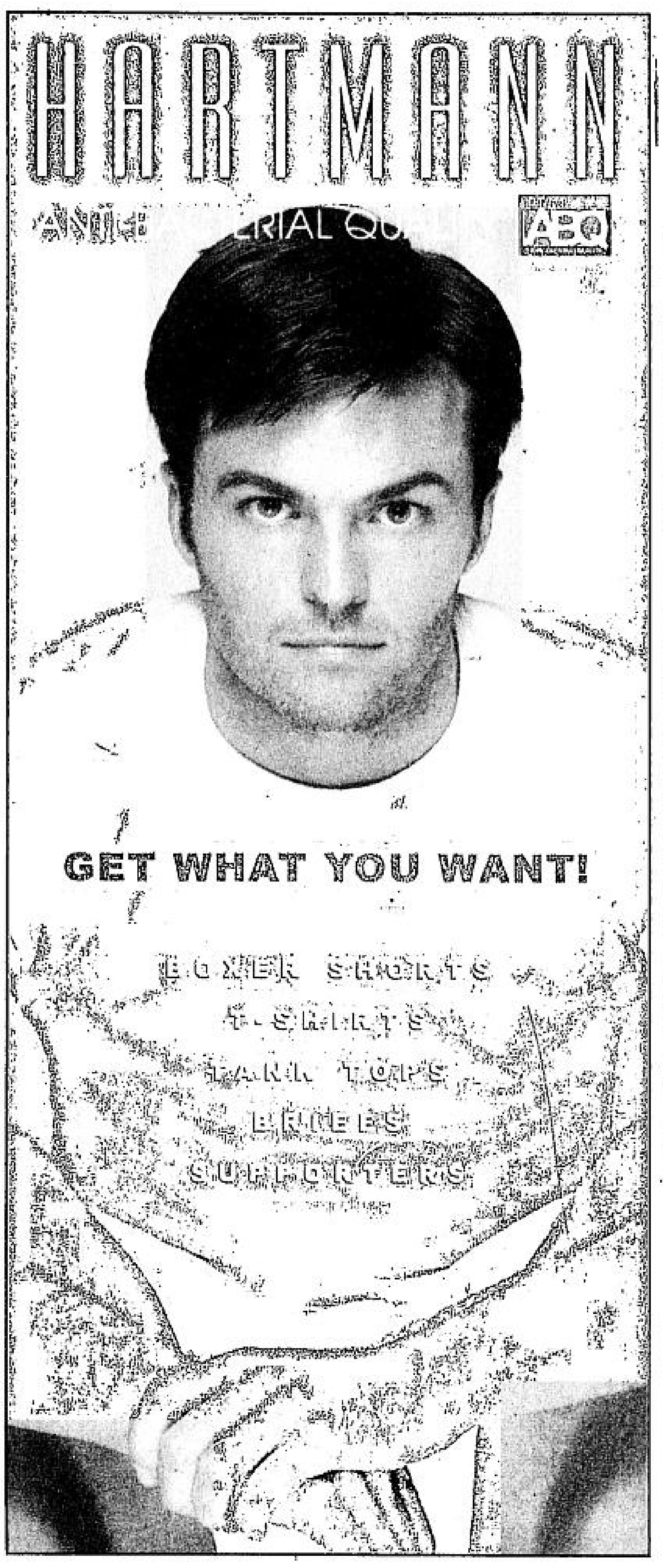

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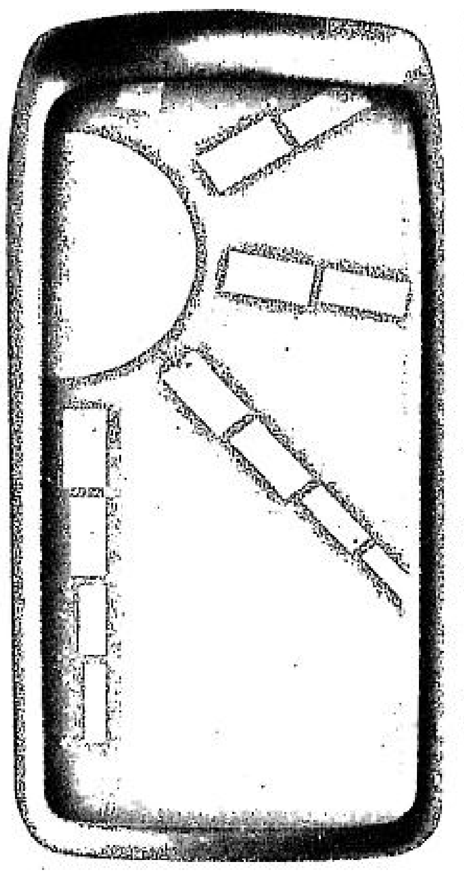

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2nd man held in US attacks

Bush seeks enhanced wiretap authority

WASHINGTON—Authorities arrested a second man in connection with the terrorist attacks last week, as the Bush administration said it would ask Congress for enhanced wiretap authority and other powers aimed at stopping terrorism.

Stressing the need for swift action, Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller were talking to congressional leaders by phone and in person at FBI headquarters Sunday.

"We need . . . to elevate the penalties for those who would harbor or assist terrorists to at least the same level as the penalties for those who would harbor, assist those who have been involved in espionage," Ashcroft said in a televised address from the presidential retreat Camp David, Maryland. People who harbor terrorists now face five-year prison terms.

People linked to terrorism may be present in the United States, said justice department spokesperson Mindy Tucker, and quick congressional action is needed because of the potential threats.

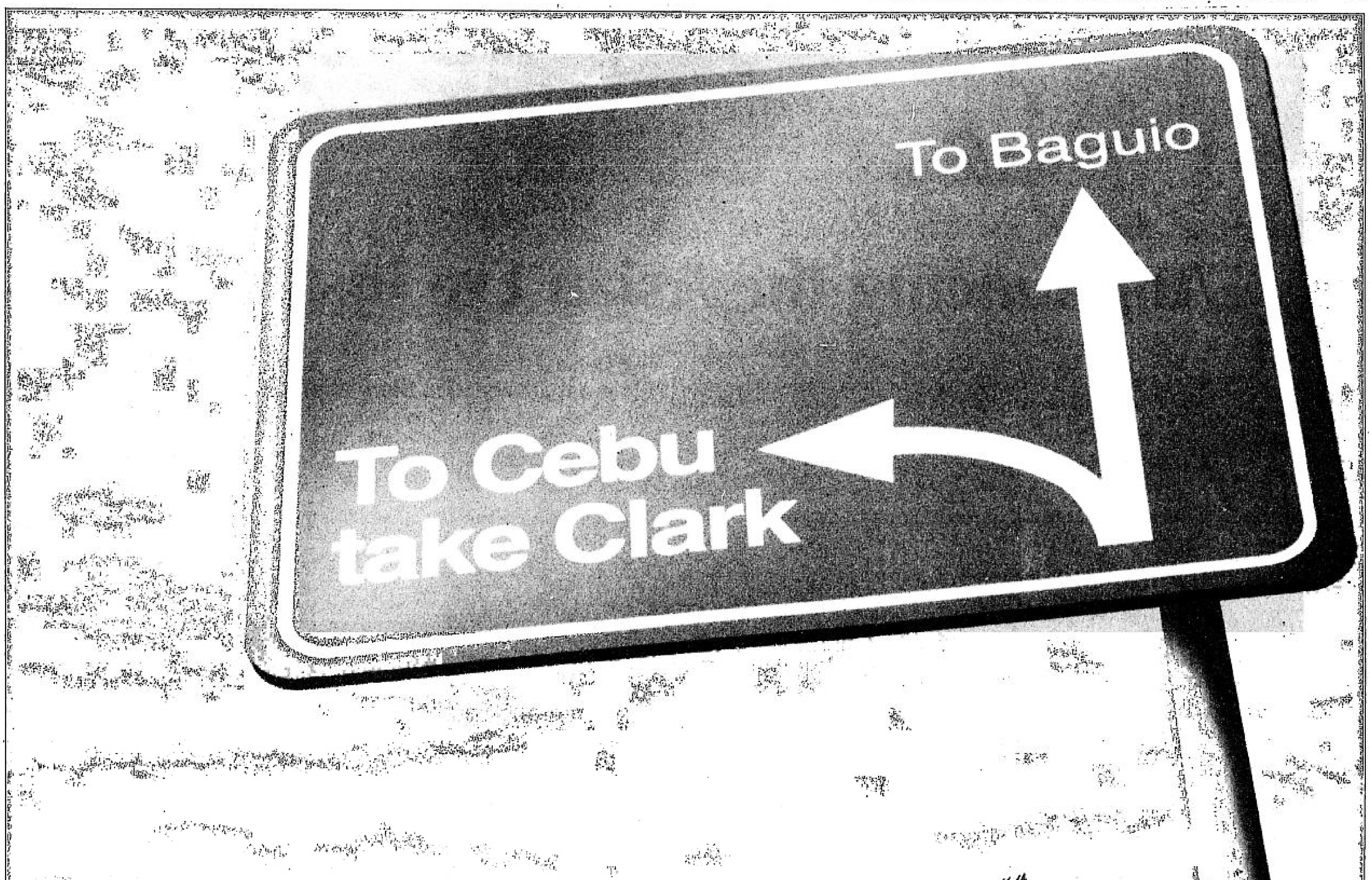
Law enforcement officials issued a warrant and took a man into custody in New York as a possible material witness, the justice department said, following the arrest of a man at Kennedy airport who had a fake pilot's license. The first man also was picked up as a material witness—a person considered crucial to an investigation who can be held without being charged with any crime.

Another 25 people are still being detained for possible immigration violations, including some who are cooperating, law enforcement officials say.

In other developments:

- A man detained at Toronto's Pearson International Airport after the attacks was handed over to US authorities at the border.
- An FBI agent in Buffalo, in upstate New York, said the FBI had interviewed the man and "several" others brought over the border from Canada in recent days. US authorities said they had no reason to suspect any of those interviewed had links to the terror attacks.
- Newspaper reports said the unidentified man, held by Canadian Immigration officials since Tuesday, had been on a flight from Amsterdam, the Netherlands, to Detroit that was diverted to Canada, and was carrying Palestinian Authority travel documents and a picture of himself in a flight crew uniform against a fake backdrop of the World Trade Center.
- Several FBI agents searched a Delray Beach, Florida, apartment where alleged hijackers Saeed Alghamdi and Ahmed Alnami previously lived. Both were aboard United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in rural Pennsylvania. Alghamdi was one of three alleged hijackers with the same last name.
- A resident of the apartment complex, Stacy Warm, said four Middle Eastern men lived on her floor and that she thought they were drug dealers, because they were coming and going at all hours, carrying dark bags.
- The justice department said that the cockpit voice recorder from the jetliner that struck the Pentagon was "unusable" because it had been damaged.
- FBI agents have visited several Arizona flight schools to seek information on alleged hijacker Hani Hanjour, identified as one of five terrorists who took over American Airlines Flight 77, the jetliner that hit the Pentagon. A Scottsdale school said it provided him pilot instruction.
- In New Jersey, the FBI interviewed a man Sunday who surrendered to police after learning authorities wanted him for questioning in the attacks. The man was one of at least 13 from New Jersey state, which borders New York, taken into custody in the investigation. FBI Special Agent Sandra Carroll said no federal charges had been filed against the men but "nobody's really discounted at this point."

Ashcroft said he hoped Congress would expand the reach of wiretaps and take other steps immediately to assist the investigation. *AP*



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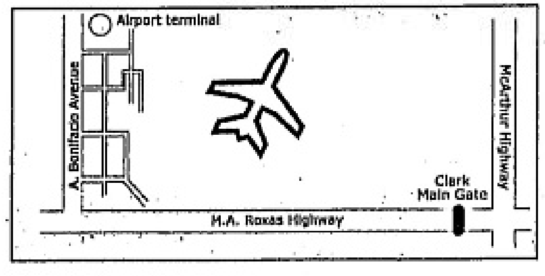

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Young Americans sense generational turning point

NEW YORK—Torment, not years, creased the faces of Americans coming of age as they watched the terrorists' horrific handwork unfold along with the rest of the nation and the world.

Now that young Americans have had a few days to absorb Tuesday's events, some say they sense the terrorist attacks may have changed them forever.

Changed them how? By turning them outward, many say, to try to understand the rest of the world better, to fathom why the attackers could hate this country so much. By making them more serious, more patriotic, some say, and making them less tolerant of relativist thinking, less patient with trivia.

"For a generation of young people, this is their Pearl Harbor; their Kennedy assassination"—turning points in their parents' and grandparents' young lives, a Los Angeles Times editorial said.

A professor at the University of Nevada-Reno, Sue Johnson, told her students: "We all remember where we were the day JFK was shot. This will have the same importance."

"You will know where you were and what you did this day."

Landmark buildings have disintegrated countless times in movies and video games for this generation. But the planes that struck Tuesday were not special effects, and some young people say something shifted psychically for them.

"People our age," said Stacey Flynn, an 18-year-old student at Scottsdale Community College in Arizona, "they don't know what it's like to actually have to deal with something more than what they're driving and what they're wearing . . .

"I don't feel safe anymore, because it was such a huge thing," she said.

"They came into our country, used our education to get their pilots' licenses, used our own equipment and our own people to kill us. It's like the scariest thing that could possibly happen."

William Sexton Jr. was in a computer class at Millbrook High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, going over a test, when a counselor burst in and told students to turn on the television.

The World Trade Center and the Pentagon were burning.

"I just can't believe that they had the nerve to do it," Sexton said.

Last month, he signed up for delayed entry into the Army, hoping for the Airborne. On Thursday, he returned to the recruiting office to see if they needed him now. He turns 18 this week.

"I joined up because I needed it for college, and just because experience in the Army would make me a better person," he said. "But now, when it comes down to this, I'm ready to go. I'm ready."

In stories like Sexton's, many older Americans can find a reflection of their own experiences.

Gene Epperson, now 79, was a 17-year-old store clerk in Hamilton, Ohio, until the events of Dec. 7, 1941, turned him into an Army paratrooper. He attended a memorial service for the terrorists' victims, held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu last week.

"Your future was uncertain," said Epperson.

"Life is going to be different from now on," he said, reflecting on today's young people.

History's turning points have been David McCullough's career. The author and historian was 8 when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was working for the Kennedy administration when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. *AP*

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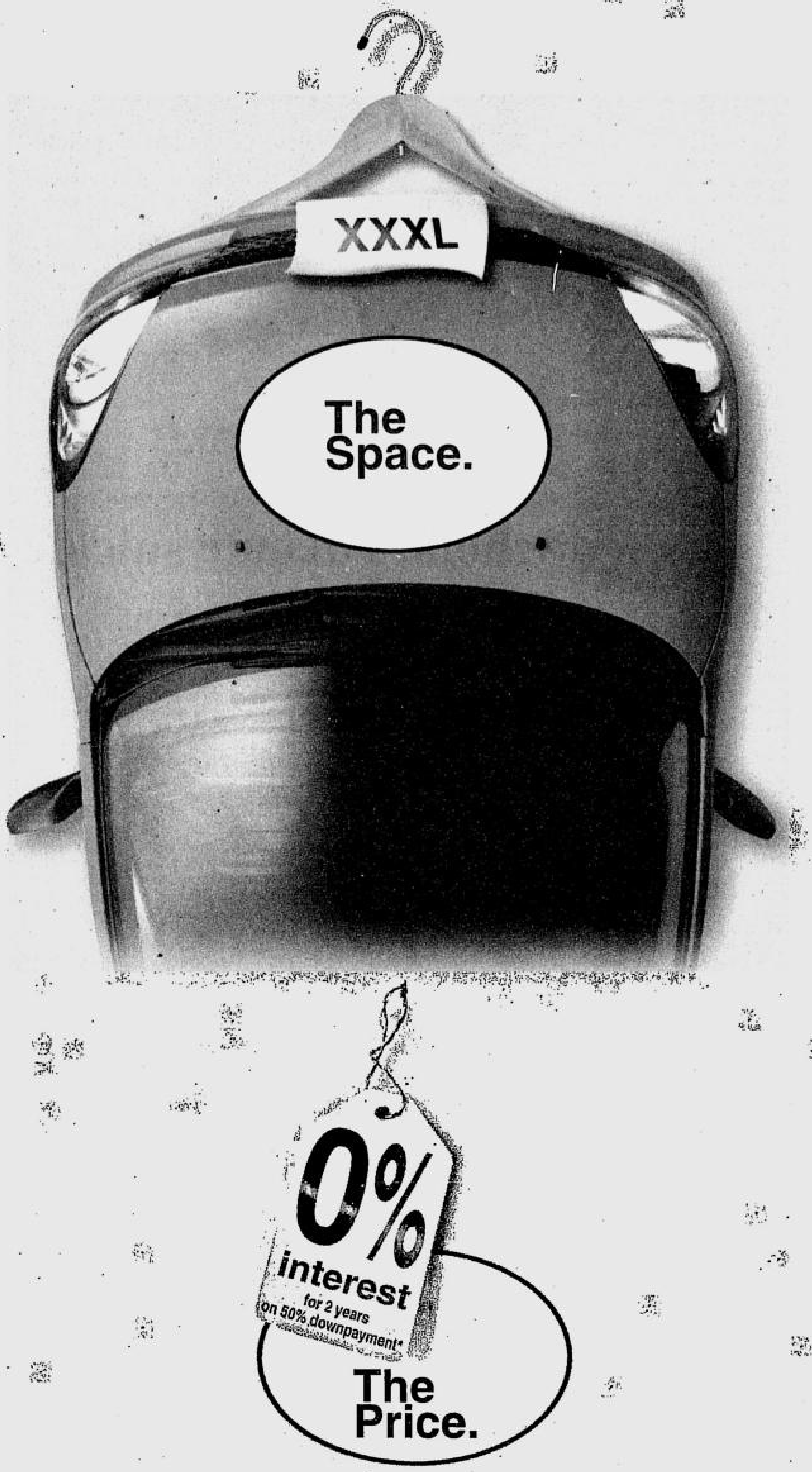

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40%	249,600.00	34,131.00	23,590.00	18,882.00	13,558.00	10,929.00

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30%	215,700.00	45,881.00	31,712.00	25,382.00	18,225.00	14,692.00
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Suicide bombers in Palestine lured by promise of eternal bliss

ABOUD, West Bank—By choice, Raed Barghouti died a horrible death, his body torn to shreds in a powerful blast.

Witnesses say the 26-year-old teacher of Islam smiled just before detonating the bomb in his backpack.

His aim was to kill as many Israelis as possible and gain entry to paradise. There, he told his family some months earlier, he would spend eternity in the company of great Islamic leaders, tended by 72 virgins.

Barghouti, who injured 20 Israelis in the Sept. 4 attack outside a French school in downtown Jerusalem, was one of 21 Palestinians who blew themselves up in the past year, killing more than 50 Israelis in a sustained campaign of suicide attacks.

The human bombs have made Israelis wonder what could drive so many to such extremes—a riddle also being pondered now by Americans after the devastating attacks on New York and Washington last week.

Religious zeal is part of it—the Palestinian bombers were Islamic militants, as is Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the US attacks—but there are other reasons.

The bombings in the Middle East come in the context of a year of Israeli-Palestinian fighting that has left more than 800 people dead, four-fifths of them Palestinians.

Personal motives also come into play—avenging a relative killed by Israeli soldiers, or emulating an admired friend.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, suicide bombers are recruited by the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, both pledged to Israel's destruction.

Most are devout, unmarried men in their 20s. They are often poor, and the generous stipends paid by recruiters to their families are a consideration, though usually not the overriding one.

The bombers are seen as heroes in the Palestinian struggle. Their pictures are plastered on walls everywhere. They are celebrated at rallies. A July poll showed 58 percent support for the bombers, more than double what it was four years ago when hopes for a peace deal were strong.

Children quickly absorb the message, whether it comes from fiery speeches by mosque preachers carried on Palestinian TV, or from gestures such as naming the regional high school after Barghouti, who taught here.

A farewell note in which he asked students to follow his path, "at a time when there is a dearth of real men," was distributed to the youngsters at Martyr Raed Barghouti School.

"Everyone would like to be a martyr," said ninth-grader Mohammed Awad.

In Barghouti's home in Aboud, a mixed Muslim-Christian village of 2,500 in the West Bank, his 11-year-old sister, Ruba, basked in the sudden attention.

She said classmates had told her she was lucky to have a "shahid," a martyr, for a brother. Every day, the house fills with supportive neighbors bringing over steaming casseroles.

"He went to paradise, to Allah," said the sassy fifth-grader, who wore the pink-and-white sneakers her brother bought her for the new school year. "He told me that the people who die for the sake of religion are in paradise."

Barghouti's mother, Samira, said her son had very specific ideas about a martyr's afterlife.

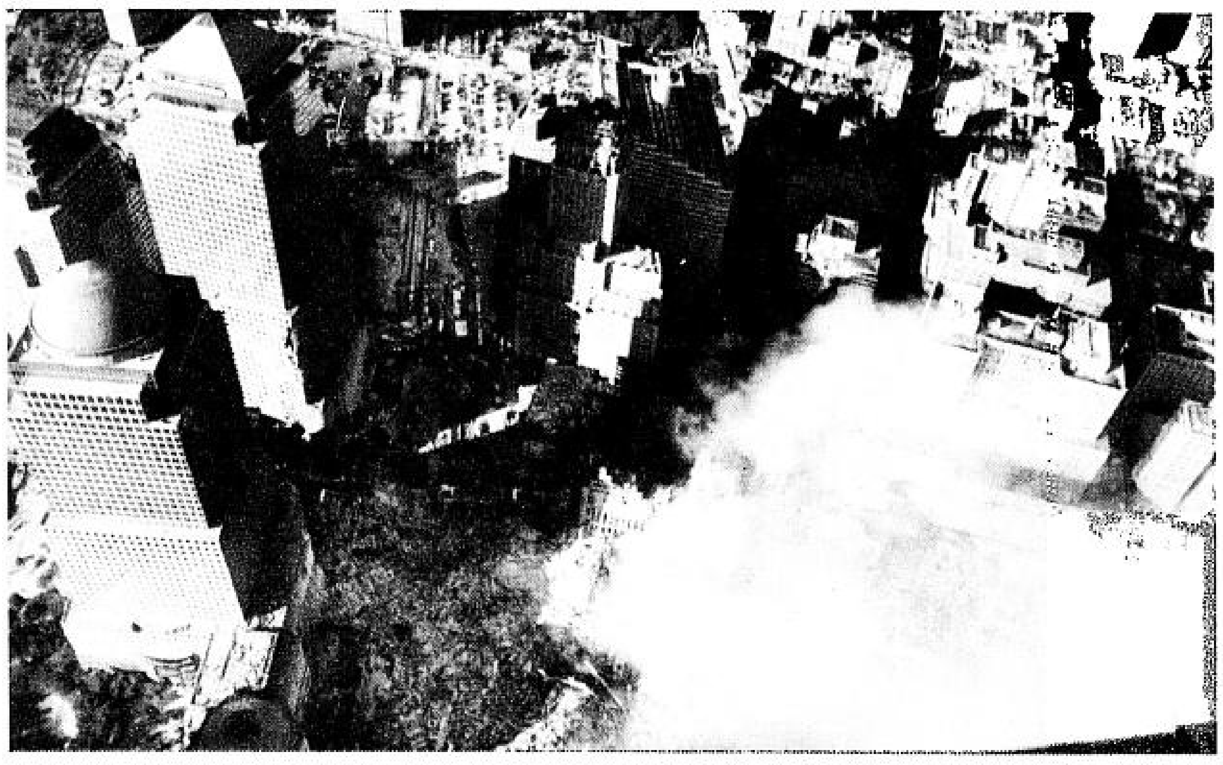
"He said . . . there would be 72 virgins and the friends of the Prophet Muhammad," said Mrs. Barghouti, 46. He particularly looked forward to meeting Omar ibn Khatab, a legendary 7th century Islamic leader.

Such beliefs are widely held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Some are based on holy texts, others are not.

Islamic Studies professor Mustafa Abu Sway said verses in the Koran, the Muslim holy book, "clearly state that there is a place in heaven reserved for the prophets, the friends of God and the martyrs."

However, the texts do not refer to 72 virgins or to another popular version, which a martyr can take 70 relatives with him to paradise, said Abu Sway, who teaches at Al Quds University near Jerusalem where Barghouti once studied.

Mrs. Barghouti, a mother of seven, said her eldest son sent many conflicting signals in the months before his death. *AP*



SMOKE continues to rise from the destroyed World Trade Center on Sept. 15. AFP

Scholars debate suicide bombings

CAIRO, Egypt—The terror attacks in New York and Washington have lent new urgency to a debate among Islamic scholars about whether their religion sanctions suicide bombings.

Some clerics unreservedly support them, while others are flatly opposed. In between are those who justify suicide bombings by Palestinian groups under Israeli rule, but condemn the attacks in the United States.

The Palestinian militants say their attacks in Israel are part of "jihad," an Arabic word that literally means to struggle for the cause of religion.

For a Muslim, the struggle involves striving to be a better person, donating money to the poor, fulfilling obligations toward the faith and, finally, engaging in combat in defense of Islam.

Lacking a sophisticated arsenal, the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups have turned suicide bombings into a powerful weapon in the latest Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Abdul-Moti Bayoumi, of the Islamic Research Center at Cairo's al-Azhar University, mainstream Islam's top seat of learning, says for jihad to be legal, it must fulfill several conditions.

Among them: a Muslim should not provoke the aggression; a Muslim should only fight the one who fights him; and children, women, and the elderly should be spared.

"There is no terrorism in jihad or a threat to civilians," Bayoumi said.

Based on that interpretation, Bayoumi said the suicide attacks in the United States were unjustified and therefore considered by Islam as "terror acts."

But he said the attacks against Israelis are acceptable because Palestinians don't have the high-tech weapons like Israel's.

If it was a fair fight, he said, "then you will not find anyone who would carry out suicide missions."

The grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheik Abdulaziz al-Sheik, sharply disagrees. He declared in April it is "strictly forbidden in Islam" and that "the one who blows himself up in the midst of the enemies is also performing an act contrary to Islamic teachings."

Suicide bombers, the theologian added, should be buried without Islamic ritual and away from other Muslims.

The opposite view is taken by Sheik Youssef al-Qaradawi, an Egyptian clergyman highly respected among the world's 1.2 billion Muslims.

While condemning the attacks in the United States, he said rulings against suicide bombings were issued by "people who are alien to Sharia (Islamic laws) and religion."

Sheik Ikrema Sabri, Jerusalem's top Muslim cleric and an appointee of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, took a similar line—bombings in Israel yes, elsewhere no. *AP*

No measure too expensive, too far-fetched

LOS ANGELES—Computers that match the faces of airline passengers against databases of known terrorists. Fingerprint readers to secure cockpits. Planes that can be wrested from the control of hijackers and landed safely by pilots stationed on the ground.

For a nation jarred by last week's kamikaze terror—fuel-laden commercial flights transformed into massively destructive weapons—no idea for boosting safety in the skies may seem too expensive or too far-fetched.

The disaster will spark a wholesale review of airline security, aviation experts say. Potential solutions could be as simple as saturating flights with armed sky marshals—or as complex as technology that identifies passengers by the whorls of their fingerprints.

Safety experts predict advanced technologies, some of which exist now only in concept, will play an increased role.

"It's conceivable that the next generation of airplanes may be able to have some feature where in the event of a catastrophic incapacitation of pilots . . . maybe there's a way for the aircraft to lock up its cockpit and turn over to some kind of ground-based control," said James Coyne, president of the National Air Transportation Association in Alexandria, Virginia.

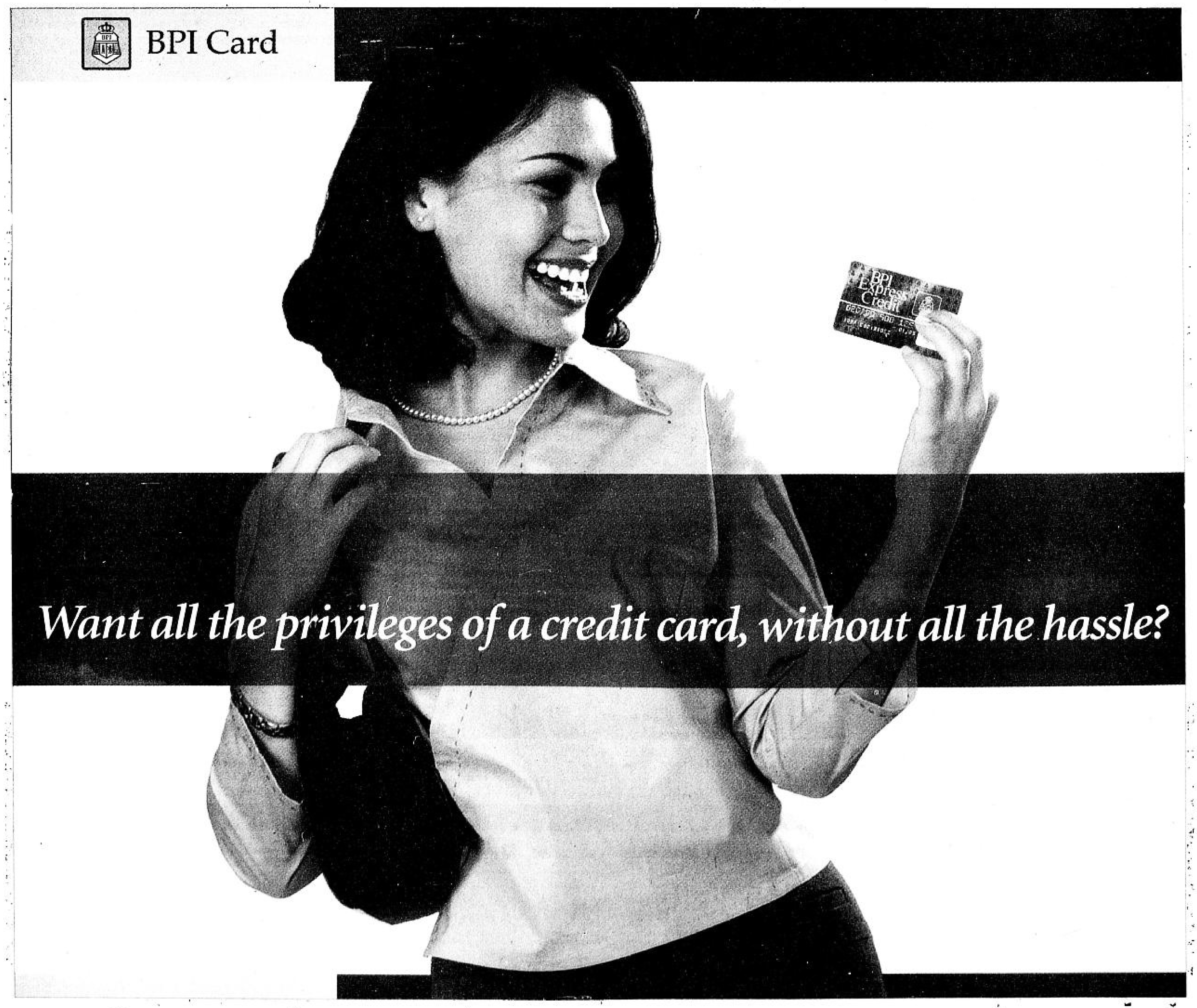
Grant Evans, executive vice president of Identix Inc., said fingerprint readers made by his Los Gatos, California, company could confirm the identity of passengers and keep cockpits locked to all intruders.

"One of the things you can avoid is plane hijacking, by knowing who's on the plane," Evans said. "The technology's been there. There just hasn't been the cause."

Some believe the attacks will prompt the use of biometric systems that scan faces of passengers in a digital hunt for possible terrorists.

Luggage scanners, like those being developed by Ancore, can measure the chemical composition of a bag's contents, sniffing out weapons and bombs. The US Department of Energy is developing a holographic scanner that can image a passenger in three dimensions to reveal any hidden weapons.

The scanner uses wavelengths similar to radar or satellite signals, but not X-rays, to illuminate a person. The signals are then read by multiple detectors before being fed to a computer, which produces a 3D image of the person's unclothed body. To address privacy concerns, researchers program the computer to see only objects. *AP*



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Fear of terrorist attacks mars province's anniversary

PAGADIAN CITY—Fear of bombs worsened here as residents celebrated the 49th anniversary of Zamboanga del Sur just as police received a series of telephone calls threatening that bombs would explode in some parts of the city yesterday.

A few hours before the start of the parade commemorating the province's anniversary, police and military personnel backed by dogs checked one of the supposed bombs left in one of the routes that participants to the parade were to take.

Suspicions that the bag contained a bomb were bolstered when the dogs acted like they smelled explosives inside the bag.

Immediately, police blocked Rizal Avenue in Balangasan District, creating a traffic jam that stretched for kilometers.

Experts from the bomb disposal unit of the Army's First Infantry Division used a device that they call bomb disruptor to detonate the suspicious bag.

The detonation process destroyed a motor cab but it turned out that the bag only contained ethyl alcohol, perfume, and other cosmetics.

Asked why the canines reacted, bomb experts said that it could have been triggered by the smell of alcohol and chemicals that the cosmetics contained.

Eugenio Capulong, a resident of Metro Manila, later reported that his bag was lost. It turned out that the suspicious bag was Capulong's.

Capulong was returning to Metro Manila when the bag fell from the motor cab he was riding. A passerby then saw the bag and called the police, who immediately summoned the Army bomb squad.

Also on Sunday night, a security guard of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) sent an alarm to police after he saw a man who left a military backpack in front of the GSIS building along Sagun Street.

Bomb experts arrived, detonated the bag after dogs showed behavior of having smelled explosives. The backpack, however, contained only a pair of jeans and some cosmetics.

"The presence of cosmetics was enough for the dogs to react," a bomb expert explained.

Pagadian has been rocked by a series of explosions, the latest of which was on Sept. 4 inside the city's bus terminal.

Three people were killed in that explosion. Nine others, including the deputy police chief of the city, were seriously injured.

Previous bombings around Mindanao were blamed on Moro guerrillas who are fighting for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao.

Bombings and other acts of terrorism were committed with increasing frequency on the island after ousted President Joseph Estrada declared an all-out war against Moro guerrillas. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A WRECKED police patrol car is lifted by a crane after a bomb exploded Sept. 4 outside the Cerilles bus terminal in Pagadian City. Two policemen and a civilian were killed while others were seriously injured.

FILE PHOTO/HERNAN P. DELA CRUZ

Iloilo execs defy critics, back 3-day weekend

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Entrepreneurs and tourism officials here are in favor of a proposal to give workers three days off during summer to boost domestic tourism despite criticisms from labor groups.

In a recent tourism summit organized by the city government, tourism officials said regional destinations could benefit from the proposal because urban dwellers would always return to their hometowns, provinces and other vacation spots, if given a chance to.

"The three-day weekend proposal is well received in Western Visayas. An extra day to rest and travel is always welcome," said Edwin Trompeta, Department of Tourism director in Western Visayas.

The proposal came from the DOT and was not opposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Elmer Forro, coordinator of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in Panay, said under the three-day weekend proposal, workers would be toiling more than the mandated eight hours a day, which is a violation of the Labor Code.

Trompeta said an additional day off during summer will create a need for new hotels and resorts, jobs in leisure areas and additional seats in airplanes, ferries and tourist vans. The multiplier effect could help local economies grow, he added.

Toxic waste victims oppose plan to use ex-bases

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Toxic waste victims are opposing a plan of the United States to use Clark in Pampanga and Subic in Zambales for a war against terrorism.

They said this would worsen America's legacy of environmental pollution resulting from almost a century of military presence in the two former bases.

Mandy Rivera, spokesperson of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup, said the reuse of Clark and Subic as refueling stations for American aircraft will introduce more pollutants to the former bases.

Environmental assessments made by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of the US Congress, and by two private firms commissioned by the Philippine government, have identified 46 contaminated sites in Clark and Subic, he said.

The pollutants include jet fuels, cleaning fluids, pesticides and lubricants that have contaminated drinking water in the areas.

The government confirmed the contamination in the case of the Clark Air Base Command evacuation center that it ordered closed early last year.

The two former bases were used extensively by US forces during the Korean War in the 1950s, the Vietnam War in the 1960s and 1970s and the Persian Gulf War in the 1980s.

"The US military is a confirmed polluter. This is a fact even in the US where several bases are now being cleaned up (at a cost) of billions of dollars. Making Clark and Subic transit points again will surely have implications (on) public health and environment," Rivera told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

The States stuck to its statement that there was no cleanup clause in the 1949 Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement and refused to get rid of the contaminants in the two former bases.

The task force estimated that some 20,000 families residing in areas in and around the bases have been exposed to military toxic contaminants.

At least 129 people are known to be sick with cancer, nervous system disorders and kidney problems. Women were reported to have had miscarriages while babies were said to have birth defects.

At least 113 persons residing around the bases have already died of various diseases, mostly cancer believed caused by pollutants identified in the areas.

The victims last year sued the Philippine and US governments in Philippine courts but lost the case last July.

"We are against terrorism but we can never agree to a plan that will inflict more harm to residents who are already sick and exposed to American military toxic wastes. This will be a continuing injustice to us," Rivera said.

However, Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for North Luzon, said he was keen to the US plan for three reasons:

● A United Nations resolution, to which the Philippines was a signatory, calls for a multi-nation approach against terrorism.

● The anti-terrorism drive of the US will also help combat Abu Sayyaf bandits who, he said, were part of an international network of terrorists.

● The plan has also economic benefits to Clark and Subic.

"I don't think it's a problem," Diaz told the INQUIRER when asked about Clark and Subic serving US military planes while the airports are now transshipment hubs for private investors in and around the economic zones.

He said he sees "no conflict" if the airports in those former bases were used for both civilian and military purposes. "Nothing is extraordinary about that," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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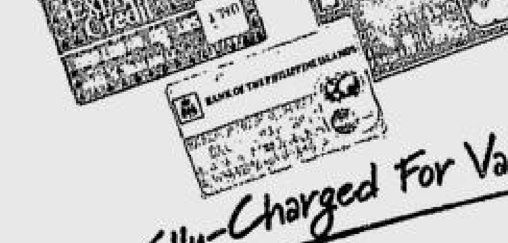


WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Northern and Western sections of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 27°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 27°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 27°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 27°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/18/01

ROUNDUP

Imported rice seized

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Customs and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority personnel on Saturday seized 20,000 bags of imported rice from Thailand for lack of documents. A statement from the SBMA said the seized shipment aboard MV Hung Yen was part of the 200,000 bags of rice imported from Thailand worth P160 million and was supposed to be unloaded in Cebu City but was instead taken to the Subic port. Lawyer Sergio Cruz, SBMA deputy administrator for ports, said the seized cargo, worth P16 million and consigned to a Cebu-based firm, had no import permit from the National Food Authority, the only agency authorized to import rice.

PDI Central Luzon Desk

PMA tests topnotcher

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A Chinese-Filipino from La Trinidad, Benguet topped this year's Philippine Military Academy entrance examinations. Michael Gotong placed first among 20,500 examinees nationwide. Romeo Isaiah Aspera of San Pedro, Laguna placed second while Ma. Triska Monica Garrido of Quezon City placed third. Capt. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson, said only 1,166 or 5.69 percent of all examinees passed the examination. Only 350 will eventually be selected for PMA Class 2006.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bodyguard slain

DAVAO CITY—Gunmen killed a civilian bodyguard of Supt. Efren Alcuizar, chief of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office, early Thursday while the victim was waiting for a ride along Km. 11, Sasa here. Edgardo Adaza, 41, of Second Avenue, Airview, Sasa, was to report to Alcuizar's house on Km. 5, Buhangin when three unidentified men shot him. Adaza died on the spot from multiple bullet wounds. The gunmen fled on motorcycles. Alcuizar said drug pushers could be behind Adaza's death. The victim worked as an anti-drug agent.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Waste ordinance

ROXAS CITY—The city council passed an ordinance on proper solid waste disposal on Sept. 10. The ordinance requires city residents to segregate biodegradable wastes from those that are not. Violators will be fined P200 to P500 and jailed for a day or made to attend a lecture on proper solid waste disposal. Councilor Milagros Victoria Viterbo authored the ordinance.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Siamese twins born

BACOLOD CITY—A Negrense from Sagay City gave birth to male Siamese twins on Sept. 12 at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH) here. Doctors said the twins are joined in the hips. They share an anus and a reproductive organ. They have four arms and three legs, one of which is paralyzed. Jocelyn Español, the mother of the twins, said her doctor had warned her that she would give birth to twins. But she said she and her husband, Roger, did not expect that the two would be attached. The twins are being treated at the CLMMRH but doctors advised the couple to seek expert medical help in Manila.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

2 kids poisoned

TAGBILARAN CITY—Two children in a coastal village in Mabini town died early this month due to chemical poisoning. Provincial health officer Francisco Razalo said a well in the village had been condemned because insecticide was believed to have contaminated it. Razalo said a heavy downpour occurred in Barangay Paraiso on Sept. 1, a few days after a farmer sprayed insecticide on his crops. The chemical may have seeped into the well, which was surrounded by ricefields. Junrey Lagaran, 4, died on Sept. 4. Two days later, his sister also died. Their parents and 18 other villagers also became ill.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

LIFE IN THE CITIES

'Lumad' girls become sex slaves

MATI, Davao Oriental—The sharp slump in the prices of copra and continuing armed hostilities between government and rebel forces continue to force out of their homes Mandaya *lumads* in Davao Oriental.

Many of the displaced *lumads* from Cateel, Baganga, Boston, Caraga and Manay towns found their way to the urban centers of Southern Mindanao such as Davao and Tagum cities.

However, the most distressing report received by the INQUIRER was that many of these *lumads* are girls aged 10 to 15, who landed in beerhouses as sex workers.

An 11-year-old Mandaya househelp confided that seven of her sisters and a number of others from their village came here to seek employment.

She said they were willing to do anything, even to become "commercial sex workers" just to earn money.

"*Malisoday gayod ang kahimtang sang butay, yababa da yang presyo sang kopras. Mahalay pa yang mga palitonon. Madyaw pa yang kihabuhi sang utaw sang Mati. Dali da hanapon yang sapi. Bisan unan na trabaho basta awon kuwarta kay ihatag nami sang kanami ginikanan adto sang butay. Malisoday gayod adun, di gani makakan ng duha ka bese sa isa ka adlaw* (Life is so hard in our communities. We only eat twice a day because the prices of copra, our main source of living, is so low. It's so hopeless but life can be better here in Mati because we can get employed. We need money to send to our parents in the mountains)," said Minda (not her real name), who became a commercial sex worker in one of the red light districts here.

"*Itinontohan gani kami kay di kami matigam magtiyab* (Many of us get despised because we can hardly speak Cebuano)," said Celia, a 12-year-old sex worker.

Aside from the low copra prices, the *lumad* sex workers said hostilities between the government and rebels also forced them to leave their communities.

But they learned that earning money in the urban areas is not as easy as they previously thought it was.

Commercial sex workers earn P50 a day while women working as househelps earn P300 per month.

Marilyn Yu-mon, provincial head of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples here who is a Mandaya herself, said she could hardly believe that Mandaya women would be lured into the flesh trade because they were supposed to be conservative.

She said the NCIP would look into the plight of the *lumad* girls.

Yu-mon admitted she knew of a very young sex worker here "but they are not pure-blooded Mandaya *lumads* and they do not have the right to claim themselves Mandaya *lumad* because they are a disgrace to our tribe," she said.

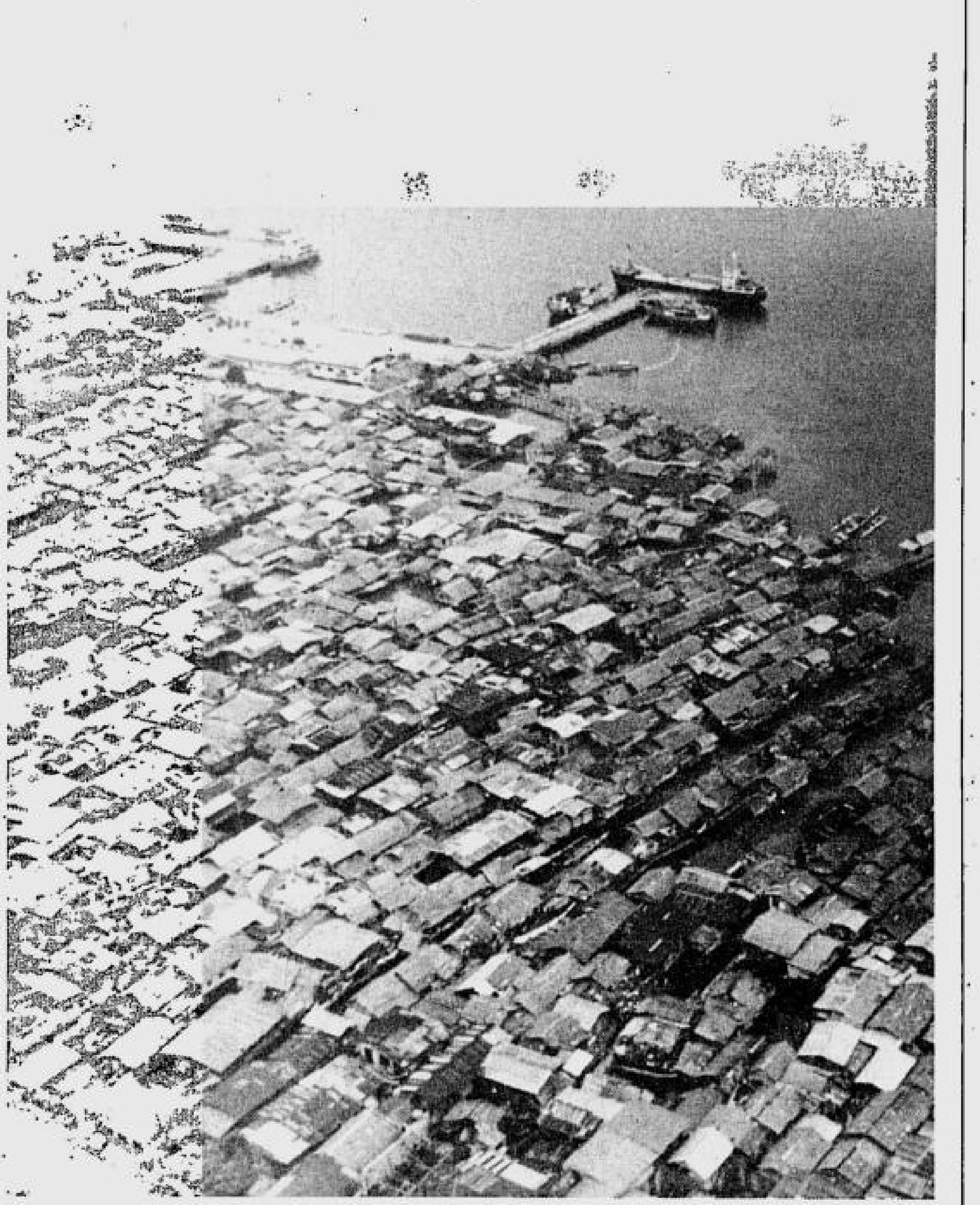
Fr. Nestor Morata, diocesan chancellor here, said some Cebuano-speaking settlers are indeed maltreating and exploiting Mandaya *lumads*.

Daniel Con-il, assistant provincial social welfare and development officer here, said his office has no way of monitoring the influx of Mandaya *lumads* to urban areas such as Mati and Davao City "because we don't have NGO partners here who will help us."

Con-il said his office needs NGO partners "so the government can extend assistance to these Mandaya *lumads*." ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Sulu: 611 years of existence and war

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
PDI Mindanao Bureau



THE SCARS of centuries of conflict are not visible from the air from where one sees only a Jolo teeming with roofs and guarded by a port that was built centuries ago. FILE/ERNIE SARMIENTO

SULU marks today the 611th anniversary of administrative governance of the province.

This celebration, more than anything else, reaffirms yearly the fact that Sulu was the first working government in the Philippine Archipelago, and by any definition of international law, was a sovereign state.

The provincial government traces its beginning to 1380, when Rajah Baginda founded the sultanate of Sulu with its own system of governance that included an administrative hierarchy, a set of laws, an armed ground force and naval fleet, fiscal management and taxation, and foreign trade and diplomatic relations.

This early state was formed soon after the introduction of Islam to the islands, first by the Makdumin, followed by Rajah Baginda who became Sharif-ul Hashim, acknowledged as the first sultan of Sulu.

Old city

When Manila and Cebu were just small settlements, Jolo was already a "city" with a flourishing trade with the Chinese and merchants from Asia. The Chinese traders who decided to stay made it a thriving commercial center.

They built the first seaport that still exists and is now called Chinese Pier. There is also strong evidence that it was the Chinese who built the first road in Jolo that ran from the Chinese Pier winding along the river and going through the settlement. It was through this river that goods were transported to the houses on its banks, from which grew the town's commercial center.

In fact, according to an avid student of Sulu history, this first road, now known as Hadji Butu, was originally named, by the Chinese of course, something that sounded like "ho lo," which means "road beside a river." It became the name of the settlement that was to grow into the town that is now known according to its Spanish spelling Jolo.

And incredible as it may seem, the Chinese characters representing these sounds are actually the symbols for "peace."

For centuries, the Sulu sultanate was respected throughout the Orient. Foreign emissaries visited it.

But today, it has been reduced to a mere province under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). It is also one of the poorest provinces in the country.

Why this is so is the question that has preoccupied many scholars and analysts and has been the focus of many studies. Almost all agreed that the main factor that caused the downfall of this once glorious state was its almost never-ending history of conflict.

State of war

For over 400 years, Sulu has been in a state of war. It still is.

Beginning from the 16th to the end of the 19th century, Suluans were at war with Spanish *conquistadores*. From the turn of the 20th century to the Commonwealth period, they fought American colonizers. From the middle to the end of the last century they fought the government of the Republic of the Philippines. From then on until now, they have been at war with themselves.

This history of war and bloodshed, and also of bravery, courage and heroism is the history of the Tausug resistance to foreign domination and to any force that they saw as a threat to their freedom, their religion, their culture and way of life. Collectively, these centuries of conflict became known as the "Moro Wars."

This fierce resistance to anything foreign has been, for them, a source of pride, lending validity to their claim of being "the unconquered." But more than its cost in lives and resources, the Tausugs had to pay the price for this "independence"—neglect and even isolation by the national government.

The resentment and bitterness against what they viewed as a "Christian" government found expression in several pockets of resistance against the state, notable of, which was the one in Luuk led by Kamlon in the 1950s.

Military might

Still reeling from the Second World War, Sulu witnessed for the first time the might of the Philippine military that pummeled the town of Luuk. Although that might failed to get Kamlon, dead or alive, it marked, in a sense, the beginning of hostility between the Tausugs and the armed forces.

This resistance culminated in the forming of the Moro National Liberation Front in the 1970s, which sought the secession not just of Sulu, but of Mindanao, from the Philippines.

The struggle for "self-determination" resulted in three decades of what is now known as "the Mindanao conflict."

And not even the burning of Jolo by the Spanish forces of General Malcampo, the infamous massacre on Bud Daho by Gen. Leonard Wood and the destruction of the war came close to the devastation that Sulu suffered when the MNLF attacked the town at dawn of Feb. 7, 1974.

Thousands were killed, and almost the entire town was burned to the ground. Even landmarks that survived the bombs of war disappeared from the landscape while millions of pesos worth of property and investments were looted. An entire society was uprooted and with it, a way of life gone forever.

Military retaliation, especially in the countryside, was a saga of massacres, summary arrests and executions, bombardments and shellings that all but wiped out orchards and crops.

Culture of violence

And it was the aftermath of this tragedy that made Sulu what it is today, for in its wake was born a culture of violence cultivated by the proliferation of guns, warlordism and banditry; and a whole new political system marked by clan ties, patronage and fierce power struggles.

The capital town of Jolo, the smallest in land area among the 18 municipalities of the province, became the most densely populated in the Diaspora that ensued, when those in the outlying towns fled from the guns of the military and later, of the local kingpins and their private armies.

The once pretty residential areas became squatter colonies, with their own subculture of poverty and hopelessness, petty crimes and more violence, that found relief in the business and use of drugs.

As naturally as night follows day, lawlessness, corruption, an inefficient bureaucracy, capital flight and a pervasive environment of fear denied the existence of the Tausugs, as kidnapping, extortion, bomb blasts and firefights between feuding clans resulted in killings and destruction.

These sum up the challenge now being faced by the new administration of Gov. Yusop Jikiri as the province looks back on 611 years of governance.

A former MNLF freedom fighter, Jikiri was the chief of staff of the Bangsamoro forces and of the MNLF-army integrees. With the zeal of the revolutionary that he is, he vows to bring about social and economic transformation to realize a vision of peace and progress that may recapture the glory days of Sulu.

This he demonstrated when, barely two months in office, he effectively led the police and army integrees in frustrating a threatened attack on the town by MNLF forces under Nur Misuari on the eve of the Aug. 14 plebiscite.

With hardly any political debts to pay, good relations with both the administration (he ran under the Lakas-NUCD) and the military, a deep sense of provenance and a strong determination to make his mark in the history of this hapless province and its long-suffering people, he may yet succeed.

Bohol steps up war on dengue

BY CHITO A. FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The provincial government has stepped up its campaign against dengue fever as more Boholanos have fallen ill of the disease.

Provincial health officer Francisco Razalo said the number of persons downed with dengue fever this year increased to 373 with 170 new cases reported in August.

Only three fatalities had been reported. They were Jimmy Masayon, 33, of Sikatuna town; Lou Andres Sabuero, 9 months old, of Calape town; and Rolando Serrano Jr., 7 also of Calape town.

Cases of dengue fever had been reported in Tagbilaran City and 35 municipalities. Only 11 towns remained dengue free.

Most cases recorded in August came from Tagbilaran with 81, followed by Dauis, 31; Cortes, 23; Panglao, 22; Loon, 18; Calape, 12 and Candijay, 10.

Razalo said the number of cases reported in August was still lower compared to the 292 cases recorded over the same period in 1998, which is considered the worst dengue period in the province.

Razalo said provincial lawyer Angel Ucat Jr. was reviewing a dengue prevention plan, which he submitted to Gov. Erico Aumentado.

The governor signed Executive Order No. 5 on Aug. 29, directing all Boholanos to rid their houses of potential breeding places of mosquitoes.

Day-biting *aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which cause dengue fever, breed in clean and stagnant water.

Aumentado said the executive order would remain in force until such time when the Provincial Health Office declares that the crisis on dengue fever has waned.

Judge who lifted arrest order of mayor faces complaint

SANTIAGO CITY—A local judge, who ordered the lifting of two arrest warrants against Mayor Jose "Pempe" Miranda on double murder charges, is facing an administrative complaint before the office of the court administrator at the Supreme Court in Manila.

Judge Anastacio Anghad of the regional trial court here was accused of gross ignorance of the law, incompetence, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, and violation of the Rules of Court.

The complaint followed the lifting of the arrest warrants against Miranda for double murder. Anghad declared the arrest warrants "null and void" after he found "compelling legal and factual grounds" to reverse the orders issued by former Judge Wilfredo Tumaliuan.

When the arrest warrants were lifted, Miranda came out in the open after almost two months in hiding.

Along with four other accused, including three policemen, Miranda was charged with masterminding the killing of Elezer Tuliao and Vicente Bauzon whose charred bodies were found in Barangay Purok-ni-Bulan in Ramon, Isabela, on March 8, 1996.

Anghad's handling of the case before the accused were placed in custody constitutes gross ignorance of the law and incompetence, Virgilio Tuliao said in his nine-page administrative complaint.

"As a judge, (Anghad) must not only be conversant with basic legal principles, he must also exhibit more than just a cursory acquaintance with statutes and procedural rules. Here, (Anghad) exhibited the contrary," said Tuliao, now a resident of Quezon City.

Miranda and co-accused SPO2 Alberto Dalmacio, PO3 Romeo Ocon, Boyet de la Cruz and a certain Amado have not been arrested and "therefore have no right to invoke the processes of the court through their motions," Tuliao added.

Anghad shrugged off the complaint, saying Tuliao has all the right to sue. But he vowed to answer all the allegations before the court administrator. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

GMA defends all-out support for America

(From page A1)

ernment might take.

If such support will entail the use of Filipino forces and resources, Malacañang should send a resolution to both chambers of Congress "defining the parameters of the government's collaboration with the US," Recto said.

The President, through her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, said the Philippines was obliged to extend a helping hand to the United States because of not only its "strategic alliance" with the latter but also its adherence to the "values of humanity and civilized society."

"We cannot be fence-sitters, nor should we be wishy-washy during this historic period when the civilized world has decided to annihilate international terrorism by all means," Tiglao quoted her as saying in a meeting yesterday with her security and foreign policy advisers.

The President reiterated her administration's unqualified adherence to Resolution No. 1368 of the United Security Council, which urges its members to "work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these terrorist attacks" on the United States.

No details

The President and her top security advisers have agreed on the specific forms of assistance that the Philippines could give if the United States formally asks for help.

But officials have refused to give details, including whether the assistance would involve augmentation troops. The President stated earlier that she would allow the United States to use its former military bases at Subic and Clark for its planes or ships to refuel and even to transport evacuees.

Tiglao said the President had been assured by her legal advisers that nothing in the Constitution and existing laws would be violated if the US-led coalition uses Philippine airports and seaports as well as Clark and Subic in the campaign against terrorism.

Opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan had warned that the administration's plan to support the war against those responsible for the terrorist attacks could put the Philippines at risk.

Reacting to Honasan's warning, Golez yesterday said in a radio interview that the Philippines was already a victim of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York by virtue of the missing or dead Filipinos there.

He said the Tuesday's attacks on the United States had also affected the Philippines economically because the closure of US airports had dealt a blow to the flow of commerce.

"Third, we are also victims of terrorism in our own country through this Abu Sayyaf group which is suspected of having ties with (suspected international terrorist) Osama bin Laden," he added.

Golez, a former Navy official trained in the United States, rejected Honasan's proposal that the Philippines stay neutral.

"Let us review history," he said, adding:

"Those who were neutral during World War II were also devastated by the conflict. Belgium wanted to be neutral, so the German army turned it into a highway and it was routed.

"We cannot afford to be neutral at this time."

Perez said that if Honasan's fear stemmed from a possible backlash from Arab nations, the senator should remember that most Arab countries have already indicated their objection to terrorism and terrorists.

"We are not against any specific Arab country. We are only against terrorists, and I doubt if there is any country in the world who would openly support terrorists or terrorism," Perez said.

No longer pure policy

Recto brushed aside statements aired by some Cabinet officials that congressional imprimatur was not required in the case at hand.

"This is no longer a pure policy question. If Filipino troops will be tapped even on an auxiliary basis, or our bases here are used even in a support capacity, then it becomes a national issue in which the people through their elective representatives must have a say," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon aired a similar view, saying that the sending of troops to help the United States wage war on terrorism would require a review by Malacañang and Congress of the MDT as well as the 1999 Internal Convention Against Terrorism.

Sen. Edgardo Angara wants the government to prepare not only for the mass evacuation of overseas Filipino workers that might be affected by US armed retaliation but also for their absorption in the local economy.

"The government should help them find jobs commensurate to their skills and know-how," Angara said.

In a statement, Honasan said that instead of extending direct military support to the United States, the administration should consolidate the Philippines' internal and external defense borders against potential aggression by terrorist groups.

"Our being an ally and friend of the United States makes us vulnerable to retaliatory attack by terrorist groups," said Honasan, who chairs the Senate peace committee. "In a subsequent outbreak of war, the country's first obligation is the protection of our own citizens."

No to war

Comfort women and gays added their voices to the clamor against the President's decision to back the anticipated US-led military action against countries suspected of harboring terrorist groups.

About 40 members of Lila Pilipina Inc., an association of wartime sex slaves and their relatives, held an hour-long picket at noon yesterday at the Don Chino Roces Bridge near Malacañang to appeal to the President to reconsider her decision.

They expressed fear that many more civilians would be injured or killed in the US-led offensive.

Around 2 p.m., about 100 members of the Progressive Gays of the Philippines (Pro-Gay) and its affiliates also rallied at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa.

The gay, lesbian, transsexual and transgender activists of Pro-Gay and Kabaro-PUP accused the President of "indiscriminately supporting an orgy of military revenge that would only justify the need of the US arms industry to profit once again from a wartime economy."

They also warned against "Islamophobia," which, they said, was turning Muslims into scapegoats for the terrorist attacks.

But Lila Pilipina, Pro-Gay and Kabaro-PUP were unanimous in condemning the attacks. They lit candles and offered flowers in memory of the dead and the missing.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran warned that the US government appeared "determined to massacre millions in its quest for revenge."

"The Filipino people must not be a party to this planned genocide," he said, adding that civilians would be the casualties in any military attack by the US-led coalition.

The KMU's Malunes said "Filipinos must unite and undertake all means to prevent the government from making the country a launching pad for US military attacks."

"What should be done instead of directly taking part in the US war against its enemies is to know why such acts of terror occur and why the US is a target of such attacks of resistance," he said.

Since last week, militant groups have been holding almost daily peace rallies in front of the US Embassy in Manila to urge the US government not to push through with its plan to launch counterattacks.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said they were planning to hold the peace rallies daily.

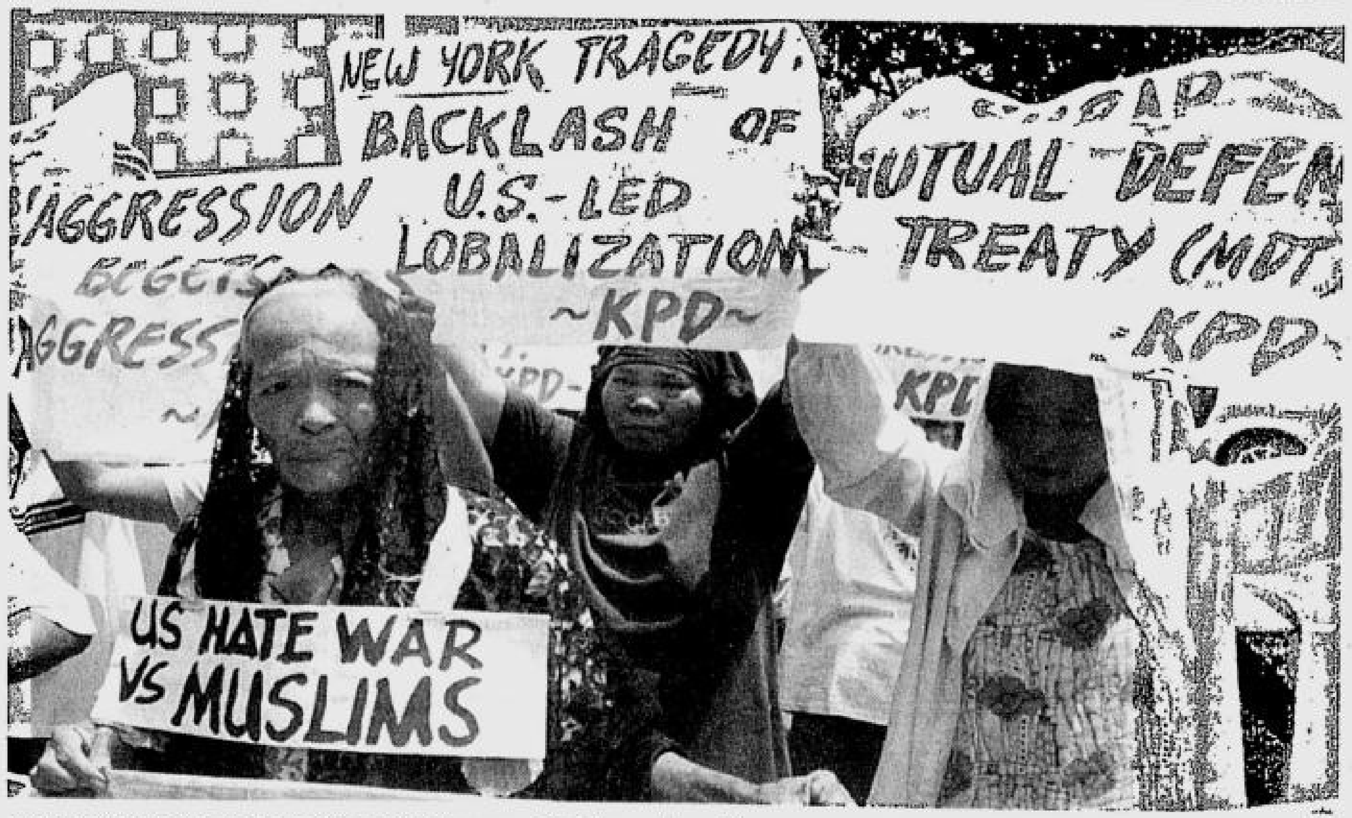
"We condemn the terrorist attacks but we also do not condone the militarist attitude of the US government," he said.

"Militarism has never eradicated terrorism," said Victor Briz, president of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

From its base in the Netherlands, the communist-led National Democratic Front said it condoled with the victims of the terrorist attacks.

But it denounced the US government's alleged "manipulation of the people's grief and sorrow to churn up anti-Muslim and anti-Arab sentiments."

"We likewise criticize the US government's warlike preparations for massive retaliatory attacks that will constitute a terrorism of a worse kind—the state terrorism of an imperialist hyperpower—that will cause far greater loss of innocent lives," Luis Jalandoni, NDF chief international representative, said in a statement e-mailed yesterday to the INQUIRER. ***With reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan, Jerome Aning, Andrea T. Echavez and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



ANTI-US protesters in front of the US Embassy called themselves Kilusan para sa Demokrasya. RANDY HORMILLOSA

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Fear grips global stock markets

(From page A1)

would ease regulations on companies buying back their own shares.

The New York Stock Exchange was set to reopen at 9:30 E.T. on Monday (9:30 p.m. in Manila) after being shut by the last Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Asian traders, however, had to make their bets beforehand because New York markets don't open until well after the Asian exchanges close.

RP stock market

Philippine shares also closed at their lowest mark in nearly three years Monday as investors braced for an expected sharp drop on Wall Street.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index dropped 58.31 points, or 4.7 percent, to 1,178.11 after declining 7.34 points Friday. The index was last below the 1,200-mark on Oct. 5, 1998, when it closed at 1,166.54.

The broader All Shares Index ended down 33.86 points, or 4.9 percent, at 657.00 after gaining 14.76 points to 690.86.

"Investors have liquidated their positions in anticipation of a sharp drop in the US market later tonight," said Spencer Yap, vice president at BPI Securities Corp.

Losers beat gainers 75 to 7, with 28 stocks unchanged.

Nearly all blue chips headed southward, particularly Philippine Long Distance Telephone, which has American depositary receipts. PLDT closed at a new low of P477.5, down P22.50.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the outlook for the local market remained tied to the reaction of the US market to the terrorist attacks and the American government's eventual response.

"The US market has yet to discount the impact of the terrorist attack," said Vistan.

He said a fall of less than 5 percent on the US market may be taken by the rest of the world as an indication to start hunting for bargains.

The Philippine peso closed slightly stronger against the dollar in cautious trading Monday, with many players reluctant to take strong positions ahead of the reopening of the US markets.

The peso closed at 51.260 against the US dollar on the Philippine Dealing System, compared to 51.300 on Friday. Volume rose to $60.5 million from $39.5 million Friday.

Much speculation

There is much speculation that the United States will soon retaliate, perhaps against targets in Afghanistan, where the man identified by Washington as a prime suspect in the attacks, alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, has been based for several years.

In neighboring Pakistan, the authorities decided to shut down stock exchanges in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad from Monday through Wednesday.

Many traders expect the US Federal Reserve to try to cushion any blows by a quick cut in interest rates.

But with New York closed, markets have been languishing in uncertainty elsewhere around the world.

Some experts believe the economic fallout from the terror attacks will seriously aggravate the global slowdown, although it is impossible to say just how bad the effects will be.

As Wall Street prepared to reopen, however, US President George W. Bush tried to keep up investors' spirits.

Some of America's biggest brand names also announced they would buy back shares in their own companies when trading resumed.

In Middle America, messages flying across the Internet urged "buy, buy, buy" to keep the US economy from collapsing as well.

Buffett won't sell

Warren Buffett, one of America's biggest single investors in the world's most important stock market and one who has the most to lose if it goes into free-fall, said bluntly: "I won't be selling."

Yet some doomsayers in the financial industry believed the market was opening too soon and predicted that the Dow Jones index—the barometer of America's economic health—would plummet in the opening minutes.

Any military strikes ordered by Bush would inevitably affect oil prices and with most major economies struggling, a rise in crude prices could bring them closer to a depression, the bank said.

Most central banks have already cut interest rates in a bid to boost their sagging economies and "the last thing they need is a protracted rise in oil prices," DBS said.

It is still not clear how the Bush administration intends to punish those behind the attacks that have left more than 5,000 people dead or missing but the "risk is tilted toward an all-out war," said the bank.

The bank predicted further gloom for most of Asia's export-dependent economies already stuck in a mammoth struggle to cope with the world's waning demand for its goods. ***Reports from AP, AFP and Doris Dumlao***

Ties that bind Osama and Taliban chief

(From page A1)

albeit in a large house built for him by Bin Laden, who has been protected by that country since 1996.

The Taliban leader, who was due yesterday to receive a high-level Pakistani delegation sent to persuade him to hand over Bin Laden in order to avoid a US attack on Afghanistan, has never given the slightest indication that he is prepared to abandon his relative and former comrade-in-arms.

The delegation, led by the deputy head of Pakistan's powerful secret service, began talks with the Taliban in their stronghold of Kandahar yesterday, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported. ***(See related story on this page.)***

Senior military intelligence chiefs and foreign ministry officials met Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Mutawakel in the southern city where Bin Laden owns a house and spends much of his time, the news agency reported.

They were scheduled to meet Omar and his military chief Mullah Mohammad Hassan in the afternoon, a delegation spokesperson said.

Any decision to extradite Bin Laden would be authorized by Omar and his secretive inner circle of religious and military chiefs.

Although the Americans also want the Taliban to hand over all of Bin Laden's aides and destroy his facilities, that is not a focus for Monday's talks, a senior Pakistani official said on condition of anonymity.

Mullah Omar, who calls himself a "servant of Islam," has said in the past that delivering Bin Laden to non-Muslims would be like betraying a tenet of the religion.

Mission

Government sources in Pakistan told AFP that the powerful chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed, led the mission to Kandahar.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar told CNN yesterday that the message to the Taliban would stress the "imperative of compliance with the Security Council resolutions."

"That's our own policy and we hope that the government of Afghanistan will act with responsibility in the terribly grave situation raised by these horrendous terrorist attacks on New York and Washington," he said.

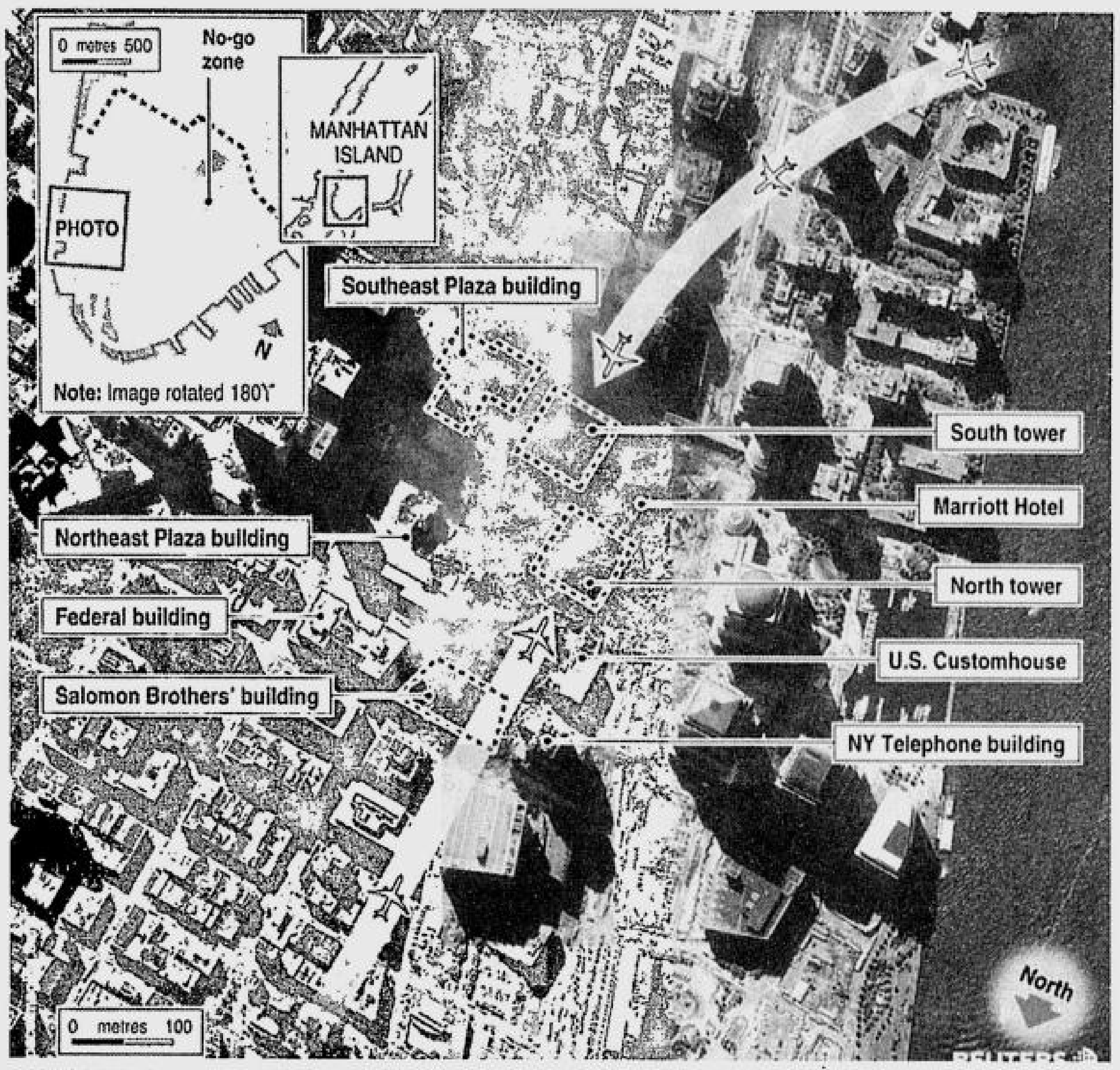
His nation has promised its unflinching support to the United States in its new war against terrorism, starting with efforts to "smoke out" Bin Laden, the prime suspect in investigations into the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes.

But Sattar said "we have constantly pointed out to our friends that we have diplomatic relations but that doesn't necessarily translate into great influence."

All trade stopped

Pakistan stopped all trade, except for food, to Afghanistan yesterday and began sending more police to its Northwest Frontier province to implement a new order confining 1.2 million Afghan refugees to the dozens of camps that are scattered throughout the province.

With the exception of food, nothing else is getting through the border, including hundreds of Afghans trying to cross into Pakistan, said border officials.



SATELLITE photo shows the direction of these two hijacked planes when they crashed into the World Trade Center, and the eight buildings affected by the attacks. REUTERS GRAPHICS

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf is trying to bring his country's Islamic parties and political groups on board his decision to help the United States.

But the decision drew widespread protest Sunday from hardline Muslims. Demonstrators burned US flags, shouted their support of Bin Laden, and warned the government they would take up arms for the Taliban.

News hungry, just hungry

In Kabul, Afghans were desperate for news as the crucial talks between their leaders and the Pakistani delegation began.

With television banned and domestic media strictly controlled by the Islamic regime, many ordinary Afghans expressed a sense of helplessness as the fate of their country was being decided behind closed doors.

The Taliban said Sunday that it was strengthening its defenses in apprehension of a US military strike.

People with short-wave radios were tuning into nightly broadcasts from the BBC and Voice of America, the only media giving news from the outside world in the main Afghan languages of Dari and Pashto.

In the absence of independent news every wild rumor was being taken seriously.

The Afghani currency had fallen from 70,000 to the US dollar before last week's terrorist attacks to around 78,000 on Monday.

But food prices have remained fairly constant and there has been no sign of panic buying, possibly because most residents here live from day to day on a diet of tea, bread and potatoes.

The United Nations last week warned that some 1.5 million Afghans could be forced to leave their homes in search of food following the pullout of aid workers.

"At least half may be forced to leave their homes to avert starvation," the UN said in a statement.

Around 900,000 Afghans have already become homeless over the past 12 months, due to a severe drought and the continuing civil war between the Taliban and opposition forces.

Some have resorted to scavenging for wild vegetables or eating toxic weeds to survive.

More about Omar

Bin Laden, who has been disowned by his wealthy family, is already indicted in the United States on charges of masterminding the bombings of two US embassies in Africa in 1998.

Omar was Bin Laden's comrade from the days of the resistance to the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation.

Despite Omar's power, very little is known about the stockily built Muslim cleric known to his followers as the Amir-ul-Momenin, or commander of the faithful.

He leaves almost all contact with the outside world to Foreign Minister Mutawakel, although he has granted occasional audiences to visitors from China or the UN.

He is said to preside over meetings with key ministers from his bed, sometimes issuing instructions on pieces of scrap paper.

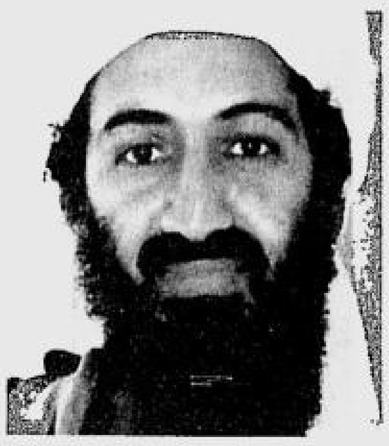
He rarely leaves Kandahar although it is possible he could make an exception to that rule on Tuesday, when a council of up to 1,000 elders and Islamic scholars from each of Afghanistan's 32 provinces is due to meet in Kabul.

Up for discussion will be a fatwa declaring jihad, or holy war, against the United States.

Losing an eye

A group commander in the Afghan Mujahideen (holy warriors), Omar lost an eye in the anti-Soviet campaign before rising to prominence in 1994 at a time of chaos and infighting between the disintegrating factions of the anti-Soviet alliance.

At the peak of the anarchy, Omar's efforts to restore order and justice according to Islamic Shariah law won him and his *talibs* (religious students) the



BIN LADEN

OMAR

support of ordinary Afghans.

Tales of the *talibs* freeing children from the rapacious clutches of local warlords helped build his reputation and within two years Omar had established himself as Afghanistan's most powerful commander and the pre-eminent theological authority in the land.

His Taliban fighters, supported by Pakistan and indirectly by the United States, swept into Kabul in 1996 and now control 90 percent of the country. His authority in the Taliban-controlled part of Afghanistan now appears to be unchallenged and the seat of power has effectively shifted from Kabul to Kandahar.

Serious guy

Omar was educated in religious schools but his studies were cut short when he joined the jihad against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

After the Soviet forces withdrew a decade later he began the radical Islamic movement from his school in his native village of Singesar, in southern Afghanistan.

Their aim was to restore order, enforce Islamic Shariah Law and defend Afghanistan. The movement grew quickly.

Omar's policies have earned worldwide condemnation and his regime is not recognized by the powerful Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Under his strict interpretation of Islamic law, women are virtually prisoners in their homes, forced to wear all-enveloping clothing, or *burqas*, when they are allowed outside. Men are forced to grow beards.

Photography of living beings is banned, the hands of thieves are amputated, murderers are publicly executed by victims' families, homosexuals are crushed under brick walls and female adulterers are stoned to death. ***Reports from AFP, AP***

Taliban hopeful war can be averted

ISLAMABAD—Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia said it was hopeful it could defuse the crisis with the United States over alleged terrorism after "positive" talks yesterday with senior Pakistani military officials. ***(See related story on Page A1.)***

Taliban spokesperson Abdul Hai Mutmaen told the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press that "there was no clear discussion on the extradition of Osama bin Laden but all other aspects related to this matter came under detailed discussion" between Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and Pakistani intelligence chief Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed.

"The talks were positive but I cannot go into the specifics," he said. "At the moment we are 60 percent hopeful the situation will become normal."

"Both sides totally agreed on the need to end the current misunderstanding between Afghanistan and the United States."

The delegation will go to Kabul where more talks are scheduled, Mutmaen said.

In Tehran, an Iranian newspaper quoted a Taliban envoy as saying that the United States has made no demand, direct or indirect, to the Islamic militia to hand over Bin Laden.

The Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, added in an interview with the newspaper Entekhab that Bin Laden would only be extradited if his guilt were proved by an Islamic court.

"There has been no contact with the Americans and we have received no indirect message" relating to Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the US investigation into the September 11 attacks, which killed an estimated 5,000 people, Zaeef said.

He added: "We think that any accusation by the United States must be proved judicially."

"If it is proved before a court convened under Shariah (Islamic law) that he did this, we are prepared to hand him over to international authorities," Zaeef said.

An Iranian-based leader of the Afghan opposition to the Taliban, Mohamad Fayaz, told the daily Iran News in Tehran that if Bin Laden was proved to be responsible for last week's attacks, US retaliation was justified.

"However, the question is how much and to what extent will the innocent Afghani population suffer from a retaliatory strike by the US military," he said. ***AFP***

Can America win this 'new kind of war'?

(From page A1)

the University of Houston.

Going against states that sponsor terrorism poses a string of other questions: Does the United States go to war against those countries? Does it lose allies? Does it want to become a global policeman? Will the American people grow weary of this? Will they tolerate casualties?

America can't tackle terrorism by itself, said Sen. Joseph Biden Jr., a Democrat and chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Squelching well-organized and well-funded terrorist groups can only be done internationally, he said.

"This is not a struggle over religion," Biden said after four hijacked planes on suicide missions toppled the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York City, smashed into the Pentagon and dived into the Pennsylvania countryside exactly one week ago.

At what point could the US government claim victory in a war on terrorism?

His administration on Sunday pressed for more tools to combat terrorists at home and abroad.

Stressing the need for swift action, Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller consulted with congressional leaders by phone and in person at FBI headquarters over the weekend.

"We need . . . to elevate the penalties for those who would harbor or assist terrorists to at least the same level as the penalties for those who would harbor, assist those who have been involved in espionage," Ashcroft said from Camp David in Maryland. People who harbor terrorists now face five-year prison terms.

Need for alliances

Sen. Sam Brownback, a Republican member of the Senate Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, said the West needs alliances with Islamic nations whose names don't roll off the tongues of many Americans—Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, former Soviet republics north of Afghanistan.

"This cannot be seen as the West against Islam," Brownback said. "If we are to be successful, we have to have a number of countries in the Islamic region in the world on our side with us, which we did in the Persian Gulf War."

If the United States wants these countries to share intelligence, be staging areas for military personnel and equipment and supplies, it has to be willing to open markets, help them get oil and gas out of their regions, help them get international bank loans and aid.

Bush and his officials sought to draw a sharp line between nations that are allies and those that are targets as conflict draws nearer.

"The government of Afghanistan has to understand that we believe they have, indeed, been harboring a man who committed and whose organization committed this most egregious act," Vice President Dick Cheney said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"They have to understand, and others like them around the world have to understand, that if you provided sanctuary to terrorists, you face the full wrath of the United States of America."

US Secretary of State Colin Powell used the same "full wrath" language in his TV appearances. Powell said Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia faces a simple choice: Deliver suspected terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden or face near-certain retaliation.

70 new names

But military action is just one piece of an assault on terrorism around the world, said Michele Flournoy, senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

Success in any war on terrorism will be measured in the number of arrests, she said, whether access is severed to terrorists' bank accounts and if more nations stop funneling money and providing safe havens for them to live and train.

"If you rely only on military means, you will fail," Flournoy said.

What started as a probe on the US East Coast has now spread around the world, involving thousands of investigators on all continents.

"It's a network. They operate around the world," US Attorney General Ashcroft told Fox television, describing the suspects.

However, he and other justice officials were reluctant to provide details, or confirm any media reports, for fear of undermining the investigation.

US investigators late Sunday added at least 70 new names to their "wanted" list drawn in a global sweep for an international network of terrorists believed to have killed more than 5,000 people in the devastating series of attacks.

The addition brought to more than 170 the total number of people sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for questioning in connection with the attacks, according to an FBI official in Washington.

"They may have information that could be helpful to the investigation," said the official, adding that at the moment, those on the list were not considered suspects.

Many of those detained for questioning by US investigators have links to Bin Laden, according to US officials. On Sunday, Bin Laden denied playing a role in the attacks.

Bush shrugged off the denial and said, "No question, he is the prime suspect. No question about that."

Searches

Two people were in custody Sunday on material witness warrants issued in the wake of Tuesday's attacks, officials confirmed.

Authorities were also questioning 25 people detained for immigration law violations.

Federal agents also searched Sunday an unspecified number of apartments and motel rooms in several south Florida cities where several of the alleged hijackers lived, said a law enforcement official

At least 13 New Jersey men—some found with box cutters, large sums of cash and, in one case, a one-way plane ticket to Syria—have been detained by the FBI for questioning, the Newark Star-Ledger reported.

Law enforcement officials also acknowledged late Sunday that the CIA had asked the FBI in late August to watch out for Khalid Al-Midhar and Nawaq Alhamzi, the men believed to be among the hijackers who flew an American Airlines jet into the Pentagon.

But they said the warning came too late for them to locate the two individuals in time.

Separately, a man detained at Toronto's Pearson International Airport after the attacks was handed over to US authorities at the US-Canadian border. A Royal Canadian Mounted Police said Friday that the man was being investigated for a possible connection to the attacks.

By Sunday, 180 were confirmed dead in New York; the number of missing was 5,097. In the Pentagon attack, 188 were believed dead. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

ATHLETIC ATTACK

GTK: Big personnel cut was key

CONGRATULATIONS Fed

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

THE NATIONAL basketball team, led by Romel Adducul, John Ferriols and Vince Hizon, celebrate their conquest of Malaysia in the basketball final on Sunday. Joining them, among others, are the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, PSC Chair Butch Tuason, Commissioners Richie Garcia and Cynthia Carrion and BAP President Tiny Literal.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE track and field's surprisingly outstanding performance in the recent Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games was a product of the association's drastic measures the past few months, according to athletics chief Go Teng Kok.

With eight golds, 11 silvers and four bronzes, RP athletics not only became the country's most productive sport in the SEAG, but also eclipsed its showing in the Manila SEAG 10 years ago.

"Even my counterparts in the SEA Games were surprised," said Go yesterday shortly after arriving from Malaysia. "But I told them that our preparations are just starting to pay off."

That includes the Patafa's decision last year to cut down the national athletes roster from 90 to 25 in order to allocate the association's diminishing funding from the government. Go also trimmed down the number of coaches from 15 to six.

Patafa also gave its athletes at least four international exposures prior to the Kuala Lumpur SEAG although the Philippine Sports Commission only funds one foreign event per NSA.

"To be able to come out with world-class athletes, we have to send our athletes to international competition at least 20 times," said Go, who added that corporate sponsors are needed to fund these international exposures.

During the 1991 SEAG, the country won eight golds, eight silvers and seven bronzes mostly coming from the legendary Lydia de Vega and Elma Muros. In the 1999 Brunei edition, however, athletics only had one gold, six silvers and seven bronzes.

"In Brunei, my veteran stars were already retiring while my young guns were still unripe," said Go.

Among those slowly ripening for athletics glory are 22-year-old Eduardo Buenavista, who won two gold medals (3,000m steeplechase and 5,000m), 22-year-old Christabel Martes who took the marathon gold, 27-year-old John Lozada, who captured the 800m gold, and 19-year-old Ernie Candelario, the 400m champion.

Oldtimers Muros-Posadas (heptathlon), Roy Vence (marathon) and Fidel Gallenero (decathlon) also won golds to complete the athletics' eight-medal haul.

Lerma Bulauitan could have taken the gold in long jump but she failed to make two attempts in the final because she ran in the 100m. Candelario likewise failed to take the long jump gold after sustaining an injury in his third attempt in the final.

Wushu, bowling big winners

KUALA LUMPUR—Wushu, athletics and bowling were among the biggest winners while boxing was one of the disappointments following the campaign of the Filipino athletes in the 21st Southeast Asian Games which ended here Monday.

Filipino track bets made the most dramatic improvement from their previous outing in the SEA Games in Brunei two years ago when they captured just one medal from veteran Elma Muros-Posadas in the women's long jump.

This time, the RP tracksters were the standouts in Kuala Lumpur, romping off with eight golds on top of 11 silvers and four bronzes, compared to their Brunei stint where they had a 1-6-5 tally.

Filipino keglers also had one of their finest outings in the sportsfest in a decade by striking for four golds, six silvers and one bronze medal after coming up with only one gold in the 1997 Jakarta and 1999 Brunei SEA Games.

Their output is only surpassed by the 4-9-3 tally of the RP bowlers who competed in the 1991 Manila SEA Games.

Wushu, which was dropped from the Brunei Games, was another goldmine as the Filipino wushu exponents garnered four golds aside from two silver and four bronze medals.

Positive lessons learned–Garcia

THE PHILIPPINES can take pride in having waged such a gallant battle in the just-concluded 21st Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur.

SEA Games Task Force Chair Richie Garcia said yesterday that though the highest expectations of the delegation were not met, there were a lot of positive developments that hint at the "resurgence of the Filipino athlete."

The big show of the tracksters, according to Garcia, was negated by a lot of close misses in swimming and taekwondo but nothing is more painful than the "shutout absorbed by the boxing squad."

While winning a total of 162 medals, the second highest in the last five editions of the games, is already an achievement, Garcia said that they were won by the country's smallest contingent in years.

There were 352 athletes who joined the Kuala Lumpur mission.

"So for us to say that one medal was at least shared by two athletes is a good statistic for us to ponder on. We've always said that it's a lean but mean contingent and the team definitely did well compared to the countries which had sent more than 500 entries," he said.

"We will have to sustain this momentum and get stronger in the next SEA Games in Vietnam and then 2005 which we will host," he said.

The country won only 30 golds but finished with 66 silvers and 66 bronzes. Vietnam, which edged out RP for fourth place, had 33 less medals with 129 but won 33 golds behind a final day blitzkrieg in pencak silat.

Garcia said he shares the satisfaction expressed by both First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason on the overall performance of the Philippines in the SEA Games.

"For the First Gentleman and Tuason to be assuring all the athletes of their support for the next SEA Games is an indication of a multi-sectoral involvement for sports," Garcia said.

Arroyo had said that there was no impending revamp of the PSC, paving the way for the present board of the sports agency to sustain its programs for the future international commitments.

Arroyo pledged to help in tapping corporate support for each NSA during the victory dinner of the men's basketball team.

"Vietnam can only get stronger especially since they will be hosting the next SEA Games. But we will start working as soon as we get back home and the next hosts can expect stronger challenge from us," said Garcia.

Two brave men

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TWO things, fellas.

First, here's a glass to Go Teng Kok. He was the bravest official before the start of the 21st SEA Games. That's because he was courageous enough to say his bets will win no less than 7 gold medals in athletics. He was wrong—happily, that is. His bets won 8.

Name me an official who had the balls to photocopy GTK's crowing.

Like the true-blue gambler, he knew the consequences. He'd be crucified if proven wrong. But he was so sure of his wards that he took the risk. Men of lesser stuff would not have done what he did.

Now, if you see GTK giving high-fives to everybody he sees, give it to him. He earned it. If you hear him breast-beating, applaud. He can afford it. That luxury is his and his alone.

Did GTK say he will resign as president of the Philippine Track and Field Association once his wards win 7 gold medals or more?

If he said that, woe to Philippine sports. At a time when we need leaders with balls, GTK would be a big loss.

Now, if he would reconsider, let's not take it against him.

You can't crucify a winner.

Now to the second point, fellas.

FG Mike Arroyo (FG as in First Gentleman) has announced in Kuala Lumpur that the Philippine Sports Commission will not be revamped. Does that mean Butch Tuason will still remain PSC chair after the SEA Games? Does that mean Richie Garcia, Weena Lim, Butch Ramirez and Cynthia Carrion will remain PSC commissioners?

Mike did not qualify his statement as to mean it was just his opinion. He seemed certain there would be no revamp, that President Arroyo would not touch anyone after the KL Games.

Was Mike authorized to speak on behalf of the President? Was Mike the President's spokesman in Kuala Lumpur?

It didn't occur to me that way although the answer to both could be yes if we took into account Mike's pronouncement that the GMA Foundation would give P2 million as incentives to the winners in KL. He also said that an additional $100 would go to every gold medal winner on top of the $100 from the PSC.

If you will recall, fellas, the President said she would wait after the SEA Games before deciding whether to revamp the PSC or not.

Saying she would revamp the PSC is one thing. Saying she would think of revamping it is another thing.

So, which is which?

If you ask me, Mike's pronouncements in Kuala Lumpur were just that—pronouncements. Why he jumped the gun on GMA boggles the mind. The President's word, in case the First Gentleman has forgotten, is the final word.

I didn't know Mike is as brave as GTK.

Ucap derby tonite

COMPETITION in Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year 2001 race heats up anew as participants collide in Mandaluyong Coliseum's "2nd Ucap/PE San Pablo PBRJ 7-Stag Derby at 6 tonight. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Champoo.

More than 60 exciting fights have been lined up for today's elimination round, according to hosts Pol Estrellado of San Pablo City and Boyboy Roa of Cagayan de Oro. The final is on Sept. 18. For inquiries, call 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

The current frontrunner is former Mayor Jessie Viceo's San Rafael Anniversary entry, solo champion (6.5 points) in last week's "1st Ucap/BJ Greenwood 7-Stag Derby."

Seven Ucap stagfests will serve as basis in selecting the "Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2001'' winner.

The other schedules will be on Sept. 25 and 27 (Benjie Lim and Tony Lasala), Oct. 2 and 4 (Raymond Velayo), Oct. 9 and 11 (Biboy Enriquez), Oct. 16 and 18 (Vic Yu and Ram Lopez) and Oct. 23 and 25 (Bacolod Group).

Big Dome stagfest

BIGGER and more exciting fights await the cockfighting fans at the resumption of Stagwars 2001 on Sept. 24-26 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hosted by Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Cometa, Boy Jiao, Jun Mendoza and Georgie Antonio of the Firefly Group, this will mark the second leg of a five-leg NCA 7-Stag Derby series where cash prizes will go to the Stagfighter of the Year and the runner-up. In the opening leg last Sept. 10-12, three entries took the early lead by sharing first place with six points apiece, namely two-time winner Jima-Fer of Pampanga's touted Jun and Rudy Jingco.

600 join Fil-Am golf Dec. 3-8

THE TEAM captains meeting and inaugural welcome cocktails on Dec. 1 will kick off the series of activities lined up for the 52nd Fil-Am Men's International Amateur Golf Tournament scheduled on Dec. 3-8 in Baguio City.

A field of 600 players representing 60 local and foreign teams are competing in the 72-hole golf tilt presented by Smart Communications and Ericsson at the scenic golf courses of Camp John Hay (CJH) and Baguio Country Club (BCC).

CJH manager Heinrich Maulbecker and BCC manager Anthony de Leon, co-chairmen of the tournament, said that they are focusing their efforts on better management and improved scoring system for this year's affair.

The Guinness Book of World Records acknowledges the historic Fil-Am golfest as the biggest amateur golf tournament in the world.

Keeping up with the tradition, the tournament format is 5-to-play, 4-to-count using the PAL Stableford scoring system.

Ryder Cup postponed

JACKSONVILLE, Florida — U.S. captain Curtis Strange had just finished telling his players the Ryder Cup had been postponed when he starts looking ahead to the rescheduled event next September. *AP*

Zanardi loses legs in gruesome crash

KLETTWITZ, Germany—Even the most grizzled veterans were stunned by the horrific crash that cost Alex Zanardi both his legs and almost his life.

"It's a big shock to everybody," said former F1 teammate Johnny Herbert. "You have accidents, yes, but you don't expect something this gruesome."

Saturday's American Memorial 500 - CART's first foray into Europe - was supposed to "help heal wounds" left from Tuesday's terrorist attacks in the United States.

Montoya enters winners club

MONZA, Italy—Juan Pablo Montoya joined the prestigious club of GP winners before the end of his first season in Formula One, sparking suggestions that he and the Williams BMW team will be the toughest rivals of Michael Schumacher and Ferrari next year. In Wyoming, USA, eight cross-country runners from the University of Wyoming were killed in a head-on wreck south of Laramie, according to the Wyoming Highway Patrol. *AP*

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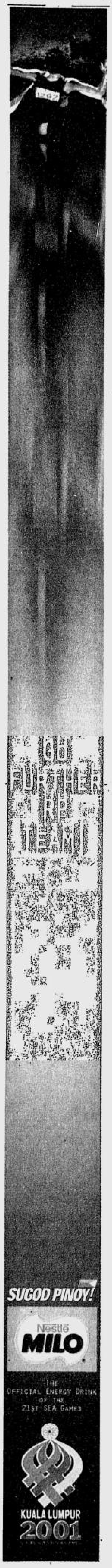

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KUALA LUMPUR 2001

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Nestlé MILO

MEDAL TALLY

The Official Energy Drink of the 21st SEA Games

KUALA LUMPUR 2001

FINAL MEDAL TALLY

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Malaysia	111	76	85	272
Thailand	103	86	89	278
Indonesia	72	74	80	226
Vietnam	33	35	64	132
Philippines	30	66	67	163
Singapore	22	31	42	95
Myanmar	19	14	53	86
Laos	1	3	7	11
Cambodia	1	1	7	9
Brunei	0	5	6	11

RP athletes praised despite 5th place show

BY DENNIS EROA

KUALA LUMPUR——Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday praised the Filipino athletes despite the country's fifth place finish in the 21st Southeast Asian Games which officially ended last night at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium here.

Before leaving for Manila aboard a Malaysian Airlines flight yesterday morning, Dayrit lauded them for "sacrificing so much and fighting bravely for the country's honor."

Dayrit said the POC stands by the Filipino entries. "We just hope that our people will reciprocate with kind understanding and appreciation. The result of this SEA Games should deter us from our resolve to do better next time."

Olympian Zardo Domenios and Jaime Asok capped the Philippine campaign by winning the bronze medal in the men 3M synchronized diving final.

The women's tandem of Sheila Mae Perez and Ceseil Domenios failed to enter the medal table as they finished fourth. Malaysia won both the gold medals.

Earlier, Carlos Tuason, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, expressed satisfaction on the showings, pointing out the number of golds the country lost by the slimmest of margins.

The Philippines' 30-gold medal harvest was nine better than what it got in the Brunei edition, but that should served as a minor consolation. After all, the nationals saw action in just 21 events in Brunei, compared with 29 here.

As a measure of the state of Philippine sports, the country duplicated its fifth place in Brunei. This time, it was Vietnam with 33 golds, 36 silver and 63 bronze medals, which pipped the country.

But Dayrit remains unfazed. "We cannot accept the fact that the three gold-medal advantage of Vietnam is worth more than 96 golds and near gold of our athletes. We were fighting for the gold three times more than the Vietnamese in more sports and in more events.

"Unfortunately, while our total medal haul clearly reflects the superiority of Filipino athletes over Vietnam, the overall standings does not truly express our strength as a nation," he added.

Malaysia emerged as the new power in the region, bagging 108 golds, 76 silver and 86 bronze medals, to dethrone Thailand 103-86-36. Hard-hit by economic and political turmoil, Indonesia finished third (72-74-80). Singapore, fourth placer in Brunei, dropped to sixth (22-31-42), followed by Myanmar (19-14-53).

Laos posted a 1-3-7 tally, better than ninth placer Cambodia (1-1-6) and last-placed Brunei (0-5-6).

The country had a bumper harvest of 91 golds in the 1991 SEA Games hosted by Manila, losing by a single gold to overall winner Indonesia. Unfortunately, the Manila show did not spur the country from establishing itself as the region's top sporting power as it failed to match the strides made by its neighbors.

Like Tuason, Dayrit asked for a stop in the intramurals among the national sports associations and various factions in Philippine sports.

"Let us stay united and work together in solidarity and friendship," Dayrit added.

He also promised that the Philippines will come back fighting in the next edition of the biennial Games in 2003.

The Games held its closing ceremonies amid the usual pomp and pageantry and a cultural performance by a group from Hanoi, Vietnam, host of the 2003 Games. It started with a parachutists' display, followed by a cultural performance by Citra Warna Malaysia.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed officially closed the Games.

Cagers lauded

MULTI-REGIONAL Board Inc. chair and president Santi Araneta yesterday lauded the Philippine men's basketball team for retaining its crown in the 21st Southeast Asian Games.

"We in the MBA family are proud of their performance. They did the league and the country proud with their exemplary conduct on and off the court," said Araneta, also the co-owner of the LBC Batangas Blades.

NCAA today
Games Today (Rizal Coliseum)
9 am—Letran vs Mapua (srs)
12nn—SSC vs SBC (jrs/srs)
3 pm—CSB vs JRU (jrs/srs)

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▩ Fake car parts shop raided A20
▩ Headless man found in Quezon City A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▩ 3 oil firms, energy department agree on moving oil depot A20

Bomb explodes in supermarket

Two firemen injured

BY AGNES E. DONATO

ONE of six homemade bombs planted in a supermarket in Antipolo City exploded yesterday while firemen were trying to defuse them.

Investigators said the explosion blew off the sliding metal doors and the roofs of the three stalls at the Rempson Supermarket, and damaged at least seven houses across Lopez Jaena Street in Barangay San Jose.

The explosion destroyed an estimated P1 million in properties.

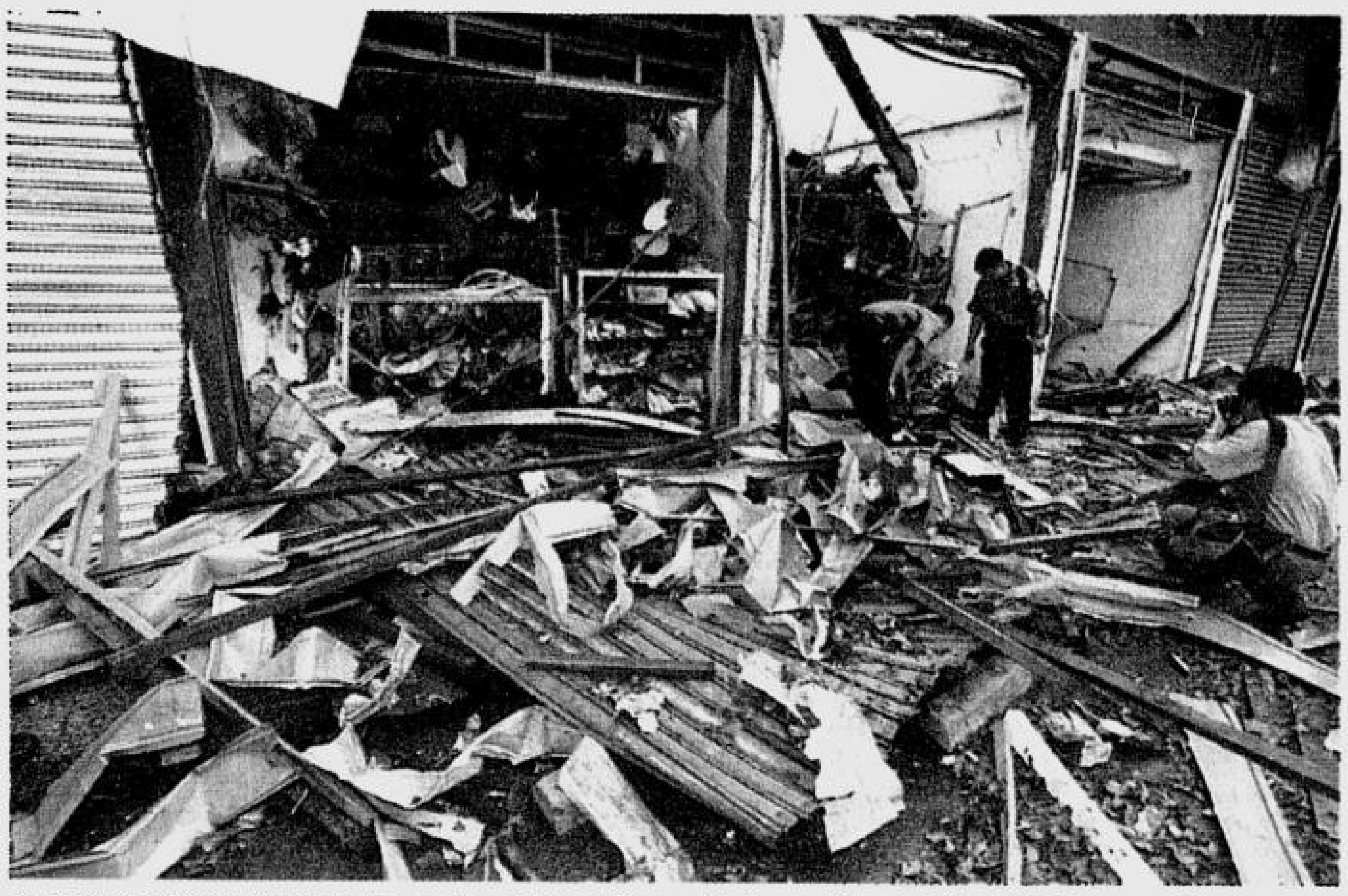
Members of a bomb disposal unit from Camp Crame rushed to the site and defused the five remaining bombs, which were made of ammonium nitrate packed in black plastic containers.

Supt. Reynaldo Macalalad, the Antipolo police chief, said his office received a phone call at 6:30 a.m.

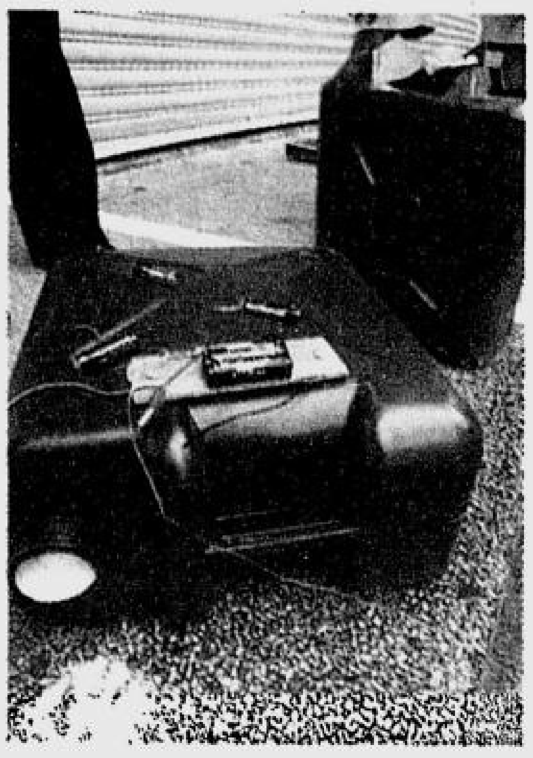
A laborer, Domingo Hernandez, 29, told police that he and his fellow workers in the supermarket found the explosives in six plastic containers strapped with detonating cords and timing devices.

The supermarket, which is undergoing renovation, is located between the Antipolo City Hall

BOMB EXPLODES/ A20


DENNIS SABANGAN

BLOWN OFF by the blast are the roofs and the sliding metal doors of three stalls at the Rempson Supermarket.


DEFUSED are two of the bombs in two plastic containers. DENNIS SABANGAN

Cop draws death for drugs

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

AN OFFICER of the Central Police District was sentenced to death while his driver drew life imprisonment after they were found guilty of selling illegal drugs worth at least P2.1 million in Malabon City early this year.

PO1 Marlow de Guzman, 27, was sentenced to die by lethal injection. His driver Jesus Villanueva, 38, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Judge Benjamin Antonio also ordered the convicted men to pay P10 million each for selling shabu.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested De Guzman and Villanueva during a buy-bust operation on March 23, according to court records.

De Guzman and Villanueva were arrested immediately after they showed members of the buy-bust team plastic bags containing the illegal substance, records said.

The two denied the charges and accused the authorities of planting the drugs on them.

But Judge Antonio said the convicted drug pushers' denial and claim could not hold water in court.

"Denial is a weak defense in a criminal prosecution because of the ease by which the same can be concocted and the difficulty of proving it," Antonio said in his nine-page decision.

The case will be sent to the Supreme Court for automatic review.

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Fake car parts shop raided

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has trained its guns on stores selling fake and even stolen automotive parts and seized about P2 million in illegal parts during separate raids in Quezon City last week.

Armed with search warrants, the NBI hit a warehouse on Macopa Street and an automotive store on Banawe Street where most of the fake and stolen car parts were bought and sold.

Taiwanese Larry Hou and his common-law-wife Lucita Talens owned and operated the warehouse and store, said lawyer Samuel Fiji, chief of the NBI Anti-Organized Crime Division.

Fiji said although Hou and Talens were not arrested during the raid, they are facing charges of violating the Intellectual Property Code, particularly sections 168 and 170 of Republic Act No. 8293.

Fiji said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco issued the order to conduct the raids to stamp out the trade in stolen or fake car parts in the metropolis.

On Sept. 4 and 11, Fiji applied for search warrants from Judge Vivencio S. Baclig of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 98.

Fiji said the raid stemmed from a complaint lodged by Dux Zingapan, a representative of BSB Jun Rose Autoparts Cor., the country's sole licensed distributor of 555 Automotive suspension parts.

"Zingapan informed us of the illegal activities of the couple and asked us to assist in stopping the proliferation of counterfeit automotive parts in Metro Manila," Fiji said.

Acting on the complaint, Fiji dispatched a team to conduct surveillance operations on the couple.

"Operations confirmed that the suspects were engaged in labeling counterfeit '555' automotive suspension parts with original stickers or labels," Fiji said. "Then these were sold as if they were original ones."

Fiji's men are now going after other stores on Banawe that are selling stolen and counterfeit car parts.

The NBI believes several storeowners on Banawe are secretly abetting thieves by buying stolen car parts from them at rock-bottom prices. The owners then sell these, sometimes matching the prices of the original or brand-new parts.

RP should help in fighting terrorism

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE TALIBAN rulers of Afghanistan are trying to put up a brave front in the face of an imminent retaliation by the US for the terroristic attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC.

Afghanistan is giving refuge to Saudi billionaire terrorist Osama Bin Laden, the suspected mastermind in the attacks on America's symbols of economic and military might.

The Talibans say they will declare a jihad (holy war) against the US if it attacks Afghanistan.

As the Americans would say in mock disbelief, "Is that right?"

It's like the ant challenging the elephant to a fight.

***

The Talibans don't know what kind of trouble they've gotten themselves into.

This bunch of religious fanatics, who invoke the name of Allah at the drop of a pin, have forgotten the reason why the Americans entered the war in the Pacific even as they were occupied with the war in Europe.

The US declared war on Japan after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, its biggest naval base in the Pacific.

The result was that Japan suffered two atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Nobody messes with Uncle Sam and gets away with it.

***

The Afghanistan religious leaders probably think that America will suffer the fate of Russia when it uses ground troops in invading the country.

The US will probably use minimal ground troops. It will use sophisticated bombs dropped from warplanes.

If ever ground troops will be involved in the conflict, they will be elite soldiers belonging to either the US Army's Delta Force or the US Navy's Seals. These commandos operate in groups of five to six men. They're highly mobile. Their morale will hit the ceiling when they're called to combat because their motivation runş short of fanaticism. They're supermen because they train every single day.

The Americans have learned their bitter lesson in Vietnam.

***

Sen. Gregorio Honasan calls on the Macapagal-Arroyo administration not to give all-out support to the US in its war against terrorism.

He says the government might be putting the lives of its citizens at risk and might "affect our ability to survive any global conflict."

Honasan's call is understandable. When he was staging coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the 1980s, he was classified by the US State Department as a "terrorist."

The former coup plotter—the late columnist Louie Beltran described him as a "coup pal"—is just trying to get back at the US.

***

The country should never stand by while other democratic and civilized countries fight terrorism.

"We can't be fence-sitters (because) we ourselves are being plagued by terrorism," said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

How can we expect help from other nations in the war against terrorism if we refuse to give them a helping hand?

***

We need the help of more advanced countries in fighting terrorism more than they need us.

Giving moral, material and physical support—such as sending our soldiers to fight side by side with the soldiers of the US and other countries, if need be—means that we're sympathizing and empathizing with the Americans.

The US would return the gesture by giving us material and physical aid—sending their elite soldiers here to train our troops—to fight out home-grown terrorists, the Abu Sayyaf.

The US and some European countries would have reason to help us in fighting the Abu Sayyaf. This band of terrorists based in Basilan and Sulu was trained by Osama Bin Laden.

Remember, the Abu Sayyaf holds an American couple hostage in Basilan. The Abu Sayyaf in Sulu held hostage last year several Europeans and released them only after ransom was paid.

Get suspects in sampaguita vendor's slay —Belmonte

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte yesterday put pressure on police to solve immediately the rape and killing of a 13-year-old sampaguita vendor last Thursday and to arrest at once the two remaining suspects.

Speaking on radio station dzRH, an angry Belmonte said his role was to put pressure on police "and I will put all the pressure on them."

The girl, Marycel Geralde, was found naked, dead and lying in a pool of blood under the Metro Rail Transit main station near SM North Edsa.

Geralde had been raped and her face smashed with a rock apparently to stall authorities from identifying her.

Belmonte denounced the crime as a "dastardly act" and assured the victim's father, Marcel Geralde, that the city government would cover expenses for the girl's burial.

On Sunday, Geralde bewailed his inability to retrieve his daughter's body from the morgue for lack of money to pay for the coffin and other funeral expenses.

"That problem is just a minor issue," Belmonte said. "What angers me here, and (I am) very, very angry, is how they (suspects) had carried out such a dastardly act."

The girl was also stabbed in the chest and in the head. She also had a wound in the face and another in the forehead. Her skull was cracked after her face was smashed with a rock. She also had strangulation marks.

Police have arrested Jeffrey de Vega, 24, of Pantranco, Quezon City, in connection with the rape and killing. Three witnesses had tagged De Vega as among five or four men who ravaged the girl.

De Vera denied involvement in the rape-slay, but admitted to being hooked on rugby, police said.

Police theorized that the suspects could have been high on rugby when they assaulted the girl.

Witnesses also told police the girl tried to fend off her attackers, whom she apparently knew.

The older Geralde also identified the suspects, including De Vega, as friends of his daughter. The girl ran away from their home in Cogeo, Antipolo City last Monday.

He said she stopped going to school for the past two years because "I did not want her to go with this *barkada* of hers."

The girl apparently met her friends again last week. She also met her death.

Parañaque launches drive against drunken driving

PARAÑAQUE City Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday ordered local traffic policemen to launch an intensified campaign against drunken driving following a recent increase in deaths from vehicular accidents.

Marquez said each traffic policeman would be issued a portable breath analyzer that would determine the level of alcohol intoxication of drunken drivers. Drivers should not have more than .06 percent alcohol in their body, or they would be liable for drunken driving.

The portable breath analyzers to be issued to the members of the Parañaque City police traffic division are similar to those issued to traffic policemen in the United States.

Marquez also said the local city council would enact a drunken driving ordinance that would empower traffic policemen to arrest intoxicated drivers. He added that violators would be fined P5,000 or imprisoned for 30 days, or both, depending on the severity of the offense.

"A recommendation for the revocation of the driver's license would be sought from the Land Transportation Office for third time offenders," Marquez said.

He said the recent rash of vehicular accidents in the city, especially along the Coastal Road, that claimed the lives of a number of people prompted him to intensify his campaign.

Nelson F. Flores

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3 oil firms, energy department agree on transferring oil depot

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday announced it would be signing a memorandum of agreement with major local oil companies on the transfer of the Pandacan oil depot.

"I have met last Friday with officials of (the big three oil firms) and we agreed on the need to transfer the depot," Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said in a radio interview.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. use the Pandacan facility to store processed oil from their refineries.

Perez said there was no decision yet on where to move the oil depot.

"There is also the question on whether the oil companies would still share a common depot or have their own separate ones," Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said.

He said Shell would conduct its own study on the matter.

Underground pipelines connect the Pandacan depot to Shell and Caltex refineries in Batangas province.

But the energy secretary noted that the transfer might take about a year or two to complete.

"We need to come up with a master plan to address environmental, economic, social and security concerns," Perez said.

"The master plan should take into account the impact of transfer on the daily supply of petroleum products," Gamboa added.

Residents of Pandacan and nearby areas have expressed concern about the dangers that the depot posed to their health.

Earlier, gas fumes reportedly leaked from the depot and made some students at the nearby Polytechnic University of the Philippines sick.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza also said the city government would phase out the oil depot sooner than planned in view of its vulnerability to terrorist attacks.

"(The New York) experience has shown that despite the most stringent security measures, no facility is 100-percent safe from a determined terrorist group," Atienza was quoted as saying in an earlier report.

The United Firefighters Association of the Philippines also called for the depot's relocation, saying it was accident-prone and threatened the lives of thousands of residents in eastern Manila.

The depot is located on the southern bank of the Pasig River.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 18, 2001
24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 Tim 3:1-13**
Gospel: **Lk 7:11-17**

A little later Jesus went to a town called Naim and many of his disciples went with him—a great number of people. As he reached the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother and she was a widow; there followed a large crowd of townspeople.

On seeing her, the Lord had pity on her and said, "Don't cry." Then he came up and touched the stretcher and the men who carried it stopped. Jesus then said, "Young man, awake, I tell you." And the dead man got up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. A holy fear came over them all and they praised God saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people." This news spread out in the Jewish country and the surrounding places.

Commentary

It is not always easy to handle feelings of grief. Jesus sees how sad the mother is over the death of her only son. The evangelist observes she is a widow. In those days, if you are a widow, you are poor. In the old Jewish culture, women were not allowed to make a living. Only the men were. They survived then out of the alms accorded to them by others. The death of her only son doubles her grief. She has lost her hope, his son, to make up for the death of her husband. So here it is understandable that Jesus is moved to pity when he sees her, not just because of the death of her only son but also of her future. Jesus has to do something. He raises the dead man back to life. This great preacher, a crowd drawer, has also power over death and poverty.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS)—Murder—The crime committed is murder, penalized by Article 248 of the Revised Penal Code. The trial court correctly held that the qualifying circumstance of abuse of superior strength was present since accused-appellant was taller and stronger than the victim. An attack made by an armed man upon a woman, who died as a result thereof, is murder because his sex and weapon gave him superiority of strength. The information alleged that the qualifying circumstance of outraging or scoffing at the corpse or the person of the victim was present as well. The word "outrage" means to subject to gross insult. "Scoff" means to show contempt by derisive acts or language. There is no proof showing that, in stabbing the dead body of the victim and stripping of her garments, the purpose of accused-appellant was to insult the victim or to show contempt for the dead. The prosecution having proven the qualifying circumstance of taking advantage of superior strength, the trial court correctly rules that accused-appellant committed murder. Murder is punished by *reclusion perpetua* to death. In the absence of any aggravating or mitigating circumstance, accused-appellant should be punished with the lesser penalty of *reclusion perpetua*. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Olivo, Jr., G.R. No. 130335, January 18, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Dredging project brings hope to Malabon, Navotas

By Christian V. Esguerra

SANDOVAL

FINALLY, there's hope for Malabon and Navotas which have been plagued with floods for as long as people can remember. Or so the local governments hope.

Rep. Ricky Sandoval yesterday launched an ambitious project that would dredge the polluted Malabon-Navotas river and hopefully ease the flood problem in the two places by March 2002.

Authorities said the river, whose bed has become shallow due to the huge volumes of garbage dumped in it, is one of the main causes of flooding in the fishing areas of Malabon and Navotas.

The Department of Public Works and Highways last week began digging a portion of the river in Barangay Tangos.

The dredging is expected to remove at least 536,020 cubic meters of dirt and garbage in the river.

Sandoval's dredging project was made possible by the P15 million that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo earmarked for the flood control project in northern Manila. She made the pledge during a recent visit to Navotas.

Authorities said floodwater in Malabon and Navotas usually rises to about two meters above sea level either because of high tide or typhoons. The flooding, they said, is often worsened by the large volume of trash clogging the drainage systems and the Malabon-Navotas river.

Bomb explodes in supermarket

(From page A19)

and the police headquarters.

Witnesses said they saw a group of men carrying the explosives hours earlier but the men hurriedly left when they were noticed.

Fire fighters were sent to the area to defuse the bombs by soaking them in water. It was learned that the local police had no bomb experts.

But one of the explosives blew up while the firemen were trying to defuse them.

Two of the firemen, Edilberto Jornacion and Pablo Balberon, were injured.

Bomb disposal agents later defused the rest of the bombs. They found that the bombers used wristwatches as timing devices, which were set at 8:30 a.m., 10:25 a.m., and 12:30 a.m.

Stall owners and vendors in the wet and dry markets were evacuated shortly after the blast.

SPO4 Fernando Baliday, a bomb expert, said one of the containers contained 18 to 20 liters of explosive materials and would have the effect equivalent to one to two pounds of a C-4 bomb.

Macalalad said the bombers might have been targeting other major establishments in the city, such as the City Hall and the Antipolo Cathedral, both of which are just a few meters away from the supermarket.

Around 9:30 a.m., police received another phone call saying another explosion would take place at the Antipolo City Public Market. However, a search of the premises yielded negative results.

Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan ordered the suspension of classes in all schools in the city and directed all local government offices to close down for the day.

Lawyer Gilbert Lauengco, city administrator, said the local government tapped K-9 dogs to make a bomb sweep of specific buildings and structures in the city.

Lauengco assured Antipolo residents that the local government was "on top of the situation " and that there was no need to be alarmed.

Supt. Arturo Tolentino, Rizal police provincial director, said his office had not received any intelligence reports about a possible bombing, although local police had been on red alert since Wednesday.

Raffy Dumagas, vice president and adviser of an Islamic community in the city, said the Antipolo Muslims are peaceful and are living harmoniously with their Christian counterparts.

Chief Supt. Nicolas Olarte, director of the Philippine National Police Logistics Support Service, said they would continue their seminars and training of PNP personnel on explosives.

"Our training and seminars are still ongoing," Olarte said. "These last for three months. At the same time, we are appealing to the public to be vigilant."

Olarte said the public must be aware of the appearance of bomb components like ammonium nitrate which is used as fertilizer; C4 explosives which look like clay moldings; and other components like electrical devices, watches and batteries.

He said the public must immediately alert police about the presence of explosive devices.

Last Dec. 30, Metro Manila was hit by a string of bombings. Explosives went off almost simultaneously at an LRT station, shopping malls and in front of the US Embassy in Manila.

Employees in offices at the Philippine American Insurance building in Ermita, Manila were gripped with terror when a bag thought to contain a bomb was found outside the building about noon.

Security guard Achilles Maongas found the black travelling bag in the bushes in front of the building along United Nations Avenue, corner Ma. Orosa Street, at 12:20 p.m. His superiors called the Western Police District's explosive and ordnance division.

Policemen did not order the evacuation of the building but told pedestrians and kibitzers to stay away.

But when bomb experts opened the bag, they found only electric wires of various colors and an electrical tester.

With reports from Jerome Aning, Alcuin Papa, AFP

Headless man found in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE HEADLESS body of a man was found in Quezon City Saturday night. But four days after the body was found, no one has come forward to claim it, police said.

Yesterday, the Central Police District (CPD) called on Quezon City residents who have missing male relatives to come to Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City to look at the body, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police said drug dealers could have killed the man, who was between 30 and 40 years old, about five feet to five feet and three inches tall, fair complexioned and clad in white shorts, black shirt, white jacket and brown shoes.

Barrameda said warehouse helper Leo C. Jesusa found the body near a ravine along AFR Road in Area 6, Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City at 1:15 a.m. Saturday.

Police found a broken and bloodied black kitchen knife beside the body. A plastic sachet with traces of white sugar was also found near the body, police said.

"Based on the evidence that we have, (the victim) might have sold shabu, but the shabu was not pure and his contacts killed him," Barrameda said.

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6 GOLD (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SCARY MOVIE 2
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C	
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CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
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CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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CINEMA-4	BOBOT

MISALUCHA

Lani leads TV launch

POWed during "A Blend of Art and Technology," the launch of the latest TV designs and innovations by Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE), one of the world's biggest consumer electronics companies.

The event held at New World Hotel, was also attended by business leaders.

The launch also featured a special fashion/technology preview showcasing stunning creations by top designer Rajo Laurel and the new TV sets from Philips.

Garcia as Lapid's nemesis

ACTOR Emilio Garcia displays his "evil side" once again as he plays nemesis to action star Lito Lapid in Regal Entertainment's latest action flick, "Bukas, Babaha ng Dugo."

Garcia was very excited when Regal offered him the chance to be the lead villain in a Lito Lapid movie.

"I always take every opportunity to work with Lito," Garcia says.

"He is very supportive of his costars that's why it's always a pleasure to work with him."

This is not the first time, though, that Garcia and Lapid are starring together in an action movie. A few years ago, Emilio also starred with the action hero in "Ako'y Ibigin Mo, Lalaking Matapang."

On TV, Garcia is also busy playing villain in ABS-CBN's top-rating soap series, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," weeknights, 7:30 p.m.

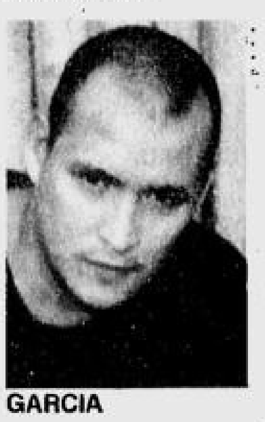
He is Raul, an evil guy who makes life miserable for everyone.

"I really enjoy playing villain roles," says Garcia who has played contravida to some of the big action stars in local cinema, including Rudy Fernandez, Bong Revilla Jr., Robin Padilla and Ian Veneracion among others.

But Garcia also hopes to do other challenging roles in the future.

He has recently completed work in "Parola," where he plays the bad guy opposite Ace Espinosa.

"Bukas, Babaha ng Dugo" is directed by Baldo Marro.



GARCIA

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Varied reactions to negative reviews

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we come out with negative reviews of TV shows and films, our main objective is not really to expose mediocre or irresponsible work, but to open viewers' eyes to such mediocrity and irresponsibility and to encourage them to be more rigorous and selective about the productions they choose to view.

Only if we view good productions and reject the bad will we become a positive force for worthy shows and films in this country. If we continue to patronize bad productions, we end up aiding and abetting the lousy, irresponsible work that we so love to inveigh against.

So, we occasionally come out with negative reviews. Of course, the people involved in the productions we criticize react to our pieces, especially since they come out in a major newspaper that many people read.

It's interesting and instructive to compare those reactions. A number of them have themselves been negative. Despite the fact that we make it a point to criticize the work and not the persons of TV or film workers involved, their reactions have sometimes been peevishly personal.

Among the best—or worst—examples are the anchors of a newscast we criticized in a review. After our piece came out, we heard that they would regularly cast aspersions against us on radio programs.

Some of the tirades were quite personal and below-the-belt. But we refrained from complaining or getting into an ugly fight, because we felt that our record as a writer would speak for us; conversely, the anchors' own records as broadcasters would also speak volumes to perceptive viewers and listeners.

Our point is: if an intelligent listener hears radio program hosts maligning a reviewer in so obviously peevish and vindictive a fashion, would that intelligent listener believe what was being said?

Our feeling is, the viewing and listening public can be misled by glib hosts some of the time, but ultimately, the truth will out. Of course, that presumes that the majority of viewers and listeners are intelligent. Despite some evidence to the contrary, we choose to be more positive in our views in this regard. And so, we refuse to be dragged down to the level of peevishness and personal insult, and focus instead on the power and value of objective analysis.

If some people react badly to negative reviews, there are others who are less nasty and even grateful in their response (would you believe?).

One example is the cohost of a talk show that was experiencing some birthing pains. After our occasionally negative review came out, the cohost reacted in a subsequent telecast, not to hit back at us but to thank us for the points we raised, and to pledge that the people involved in the show would work harder to remedy the program's perceived deficiencies.

On another occasion, the lead actress of a TV drama series wrote us to express her appreciation for both the positive and negative comments we made on the show.

In our view, these more positive examples show that negative reviews can have beneficial effects, if they are taken in the spirit with which they were intended.

Besides, as we've said, our main objective in writing reviews is not really to affect or influence industry people, but to help open viewers eyes and minds to the good work they should expect and even demand from the TV-film productions they watch.

John Estrada should be man enough to admit to his indiscretions

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

JUST asking:

- What's the common denominator of **Dingdong Dantes** and **Patrick Garcia**? An insider claims that Patrick used to go out with Dingdong's steady date (next to **Antoinette Taus**), **Chinna Jocson**. So, is it Toni plus Chinna equals Dingdong, or Dingdong minus Toni? Cannot be, according to the fans, so borrow 1 and add to Chinna?

- How true are hush-hush reports that **Kris Aquino** is going to host a game show soon? The ever bubbly and childlike Kristeta will make a perfect game master. I wonder if it would be a dating game type of show. It would be fun to watch Kris cheer on the contestants as she searches for Mr. Right herself.

- Readers e-mailed me asking why **Sharon Cuneta** has cut short her darling daughter **KC**'s budding career when school reopened. As a mom myself, I understand where Sharon is coming from. It is best that KC concentrates on her studies first. She can always go back to modeling and stage acting anyway.

The trouble with most young stars is that once they start earning big bucks, they become too lazy to study. What good is a full pocket if you've got an empty head?

At the same time, you can't blame KC's fans for feeling that they can never have enough of KC.

- When oh when will **John Estrada** finally be man enough to admit to all his indiscretions? Viewers are appalled that he can be so nonchalant on "MTB," acting as if nothing happened.

His estranged wife **Janice de Belen** has said her piece. It's only right that John makes an official statement soon and not resort to some show biz answer like **Vanessa del Bianco** and him are just friends. The more they try to hide it, the more obvious it becomes. TV may be an idiot box but viewers are smarter than John thinks.

LL unaffected

One thing that keeps King of Stunts **Lito Lapid** close to the heart of the public is his image as a big screen hero who remains unaffected by the politics of his times and stays as humble as ever despite all the success he has been enjoying in his dual careers as action star and Pampanga governor.

In the many years the daring action star has been in the business as one of the genre's premier figures, many people have come to regard him as an enduring symbol of toughness, strength and disarming humility.

Lito again plays a hero with a heart of gold and guts of steel in the latest Regal hard action starrer, "Bukas, Babaha ng Dugo," where Lito works with equally gutsy director **Baldo Marro**.

Lito plays the role of a retired soldier who is tricked into participating in a covert mission that turns out to be a bank heist. The movie opens Sept. 19.

Personal

Happy, happy Birthday to my idol, *'Ta* **Lets**! Even when I put you on a pedestal, it's good to know that anytime, you don't mind "acting foolish" just to be within my reach. Saranghamneda!

Mille grazie, your majesty, **Henry O.**, for a soulful evening at **Bryan Mcknight**'s Hard Rock show. Your great company enhanced the magic of Bryan's music even more.

Thanks also to **Ronald** of 89.9 TM and **Reggie** of K-Lite for the tickets.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

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SCARY MOVIE 2 - R 18 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	A KNIGHT'S TALE - P 13 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 11:20,2:00,4:40,7:20,10:00

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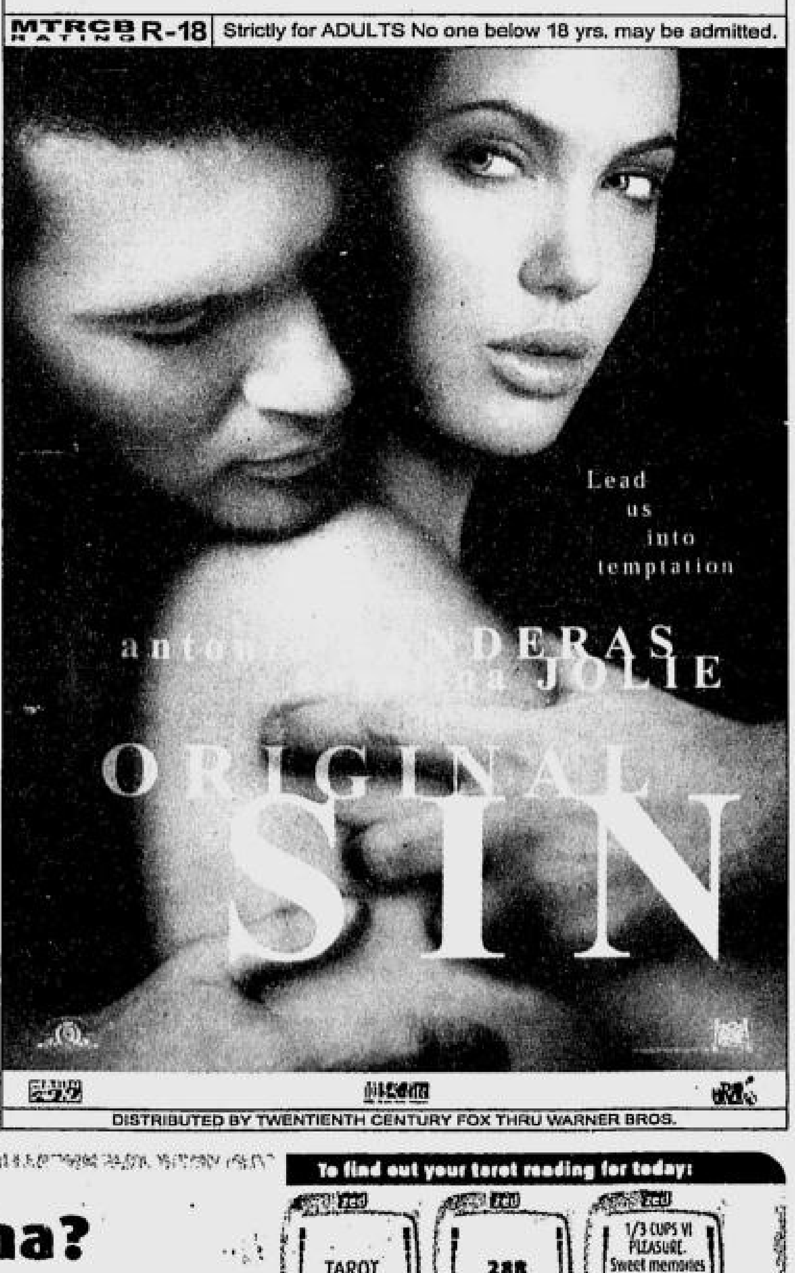

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Money-laundering watchdog nixes RP plea

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PARIS-BASED Financial Action Task Force, the world's anti-money laundering watchdog, has turned down the Philippines' request to be spared from the economic sanctions that the powerful Group of Seven is expected to start imposing next month.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said last week's bombings of major landmarks in the United States even heightened the importance of curbing money laundering in countries like the Philippines, which is perceived to be noncooperative when it comes to the fight against dirty money.

"With the fight against terrorist attacks, the move to curtail money laundering would heighten," the finance chief said.

Camacho said that he and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura would ask Congress if it could rush a law against money laundering by Sept. 30 instead of Oct. 15 as some legislators had promised.

Camacho and Buenaventura had met with FATF representatives during the recent state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Japan.

Money laundering is the "cleansing" of funds raised from illegal activities such as drug trafficking, kidnapping and racketeering. The Paris-based task force had given the Philippines along with Russia and Nauru until Sept. 30 to pass a law against money laundering.

Camacho said the Republic of Nauru was able to beat the Sept. 30 deadline imposed by the task force and passed a law, but that the FATF felt it was incomplete. However, Nauru was given until the end of November to fine-tune its legislation.

Still, Camacho said Nauru would be spared from the supposed "counter-measures" to be imposed by the FATF members, mostly from the rich countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"While we got support from Asian members of the FATF, the European members had strong sentiments to push for reforms in the Philippines. They decided that they could not give exceptions and so if we fail to pass a law by Sept. 30, we face counter-measures that may start gradually but may become more severe," the finance chief said.

Camacho said Russia was able to pass an acceptable law against money laundering, and the FATF might remove it from the watch list of countries seen as having lax policies against money laundering.

The finance chief said if the Philippines could legislate an anti-money laundering law by Sept. 30, the legislation need to be reviewed by the Asian members of the FATF and, if found acceptable, the country's delisting would be recommended to the Paris-based watchdog.

Counter-measures would also be placed on hold if the country could pass an anti-money laundering law by Sept. 30, the finance chief said.

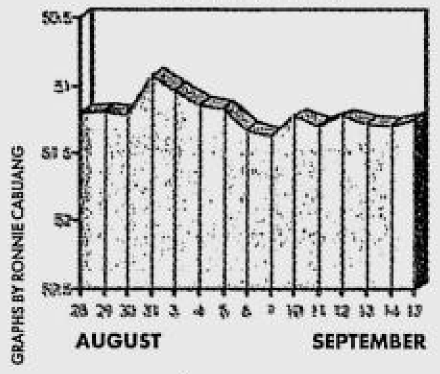
"Without a law, the FATF members would implement their respective counter-measures that would affect our banking system since they would be more cautious in dealing with the Philippines," Camacho said.

Banks believed that among the sanctions to be imposed by their foreign counterparts would include a reduction in grants, difficult access to credit, a more stringent policy in the issuance of visas and negative investment advisories.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



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As of 5 p.m.,
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Ayala is lone bidder for Bonifacio project

Ayala Land Inc. has emerged as the sole bidder for the majority stake being bid out by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. covering the development of an 18.9-hectare property in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

INQUIRER sources yesterday said FBDC would still evaluate whether to accept Ayala Land's proposal. The company's board of directors will meet on Thursday to discuss the bid.

There were two other pre-qualified bidders—Robinsons Land Corp. of taipan John Gokongwei and the Pentacapital Investment Group—but both did not submit their formal offers.

The property is located on the northern portion of the Fort Bonifacio complex near the sprawling S&R Membership Shopping club and the Kalayaan Gate. It is adjacent to the proposed University Park, the future site of three major international schools.

FBDC decided to farm out the development of part of its property to generate cash for other priority projects such as the Big Delta, also inside the global city complex.

RP eyes $500-M bond float

THE MACAPAGAL administration has announced plans to issue as much as $500 million in long-term sovereign bonds in the Japanese market to help finance next year's estimated budget deficit of P130 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government has also canceled a $500-million global bond issue to finance this year's requirements.

"If ever, the proceeds of a global public issue would be used for next year already. We are more or less covered for this year," the finance chief said. Next year, the government needs to raise P111.8 billion to cover the deficit as compared with this year's financing requirement of P173.8 billion.

"We are studying the possibility of doing a samurai or a shibusai bond issue possibly before the year ends. But the proceeds would be used for next year already," he said.

Camacho estimated that the proposed borrowing from the Japanese market would range from $300 million to $500 million. A samurai float is a public bond issue while a shibusai is a private placement.

He said the Department of Finance has received several proposals from Fuji Bank, Nomura Securities, Daiwa Securities and Salomon Brothers to underwrite the upcoming borrowing.

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Japan, the partly state-owned Nippon Export and Investments had also offered to act as a guarantor for the planned borrowing.

This year, the government has so far raised $770 million from the foreign markets.

As the government announced its new borrowing, the yield of the 91-day treasury bill rate yesterday inched up by 1.3 basis points to 9.467 percent as rates of longer-dated debt notes fell.

The yield of the six-month treasury bills fell by 17.4 points to 11.629 percent while that for the one-year debt notes slid by 45.5 points to 12.544 percent from 13 percent last week.

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In aid of delegation

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IF you believe this cute administration of Gloriaetta, the Philippines will keep its share of official development assistance from Japan. In other words, it has more money to spend.

The Japanese government is poised to cut in its ODA budget by at least 10 percent. It's recession time there, brod, and even Japan can suffer from aid fatigue.

Thus for the first time in about 10 years, the Japanese government's budget for ODA is being reduced to less than Y1 trillion. This is less than $8.5 billion.

Official figures show that in the past few years, Japanese ODA for the Philippines amounted to more than $400 million a year. The total so far has reached $9 billion.

All these years, in effect, our total ODA from Japan already equals Japan's ODA budget for one year. I mean, indeed, Japan seems to have a soft spot for the Philippines.

I don't think it's because we served the Japanese Imperial Army comfort women during World War II, although up to now, we still serve them the delectable Japayuki.

Whatever it is, while the Japanese still debate the ODA cuts in the Diet, this cute administration is already confident that our ODA will not get a new hairstyle. No cut!

* * *

AS an indication of Gloriaetta's concern over the cut in Japanese ODA, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas had to join the official delegation.

The Wall Street types, meaning, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, were part of the advance party.

Of course they gave briefings to Japanese executives. Canlas did not go there to give similar briefings. He had a different role.

While not a Wall Street guy, Canlas serves also as director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, which is on top all ODA-funded projects.

Guess, by the way, who were the senators who formed part of Gloriaetta's official delegation. They were Sen. John Osmeña and Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

In a gathering of Filipinos in Japan, the crowd murmured (i.e. surprise), when Gloriaetta introduced Oreta. It seems they still remember her as the "dancing queen."

The thing is, the Japanese wanted an Aquino in her party, and Gloriaetta already took Rep. Butz Aquino with her to another trip. What's this—in aid of delegation?

* * *

ANYWAY, the role of Canlas was to support Gloriaetta's claim that the Japanese ODA is well spent under her administration. For what? Chuwariwariwap or something?

No, I don't think so. Earlier in an exclusive interview, Gloriaetta told me that her administration was hitting an overall usage of ODA this year of more than 94 percent.

One big factor to such a big jump in ODA usage, she told me then, was her decision to do away with the practice under the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Remember—Wrist Band ordered an automatic review by somebody in the Palace of all contracts worth P50 million and above. Everything was centralized.

Gloriaetta gave back the processing of ODA projects to Neda, which was headed by Canlas. He was only her mentor at the UP School of Economics.

* * *

BUT to me ODA is always a two-way street. The donor country like Japan benefits from ODA as much as the recipient like the Philippines. It helps both their economies.

Who do you think gets all the contracts for the ODA-funded projects? If the money comes from Japan, the contracts go to Japanese companies. Simple.

That's why I'd rather hope that Gloriaetta would succeed in convincing Japanese companies to invest here more than she would beg the Japanese government for aid.

In closed-door calls of top Japanese executives on Gloriaetta, precisely, she actually pushed for her program to make the Philippines into an ICT hub in Asia.

She also pushed for ICT in her meeting with the Philippine Japan Economic Cooperation Committee, which was headed by Ayala's Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

It's a big-time group, in other words. Well, look at a sampling of people in the audience who listened to Gloriaetta when she delivered her sales talk, *este*, speech.

* * *

IF the gathering was any indication of Japanese interest in the Philippines, I think Gloriaetta got the crème de la crème, plus a cherry on top.

I could see in attendance such prominent Japanese business leaders as the chair of Marubeni Corp., Iwao Toriumi, who is Fernando's counterpart in Japan in the committee.

There was also the president of Japan Airlines, Isao Kaneko, and the president and CEO of Mitsubishi Corp., Mikio Sasaki.

The chair of Keizai Doyukai (employers' federation), Yotaro Kobayashi, and the chair of the Japan Foreign Trade Council, Kenji Miyahara, were also there.

Plus there were the chair of Mitsui, Shigeji Ueshima, and the chair and CEO of Orix Corp., Yoshihiko Miyauchi.

I know this piece sounds like a society column, but I happen to know all those guys in person. My only problem is, they don't know me from Adam or Osama!

* * *

WELL, the Philippines is ranked as first in terms of availability of knowledge workers. Some one million Filipinos know how to use the Internet.

Thus in those closed-door (but unlocked) calls of Japanese executives on Gloriaetta, she must have pushed for her ICT program.

For instance, Fujitsu Ltd., the world's pioneer in digital cameras, which has some 12 firms in the Philippines, precisely got her invitation to set up ICT businesses here.

In Cebu, moreover, the Tsuneishi Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. is already designing 45,000-ton vessels with the use of hi-tech software done by Filipinos.

The company will soon expand its operations. It also wants to make 75,000-ton vessels. No wonder the eastern part of the Cebu island is more developed than the rest.

And then there was Kawasaki Steel. The company merged recently with Kobe Steel, and the merger made it the biggest steel company in the whole world.

But its main competitor in Japan, Nippon Steel, is way ahead in the IT business. Nippon Steel supplies the system for Japan's top clothing retail chain known as Uniqlo.

Sumitomo Metal Mining is putting up $150-million for a nickel mine in Palawan. It is using new technology to extract nickel from soil residue from mines.

A similar pile of dirt exists in the Masinloc mines in Zambales. What's another $150 million of investments between friends?

BSP tightens rules on banks' exposure in real estate sector

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has issued an order requiring banks to include their direct investments in property companies in the computation of their real estate exposure.

BSP Circular No. 294 also ordered banks to keep their real estate exposure at not more than 50 percent of their net worth.

The policy-making Monetary Board, through this circular, has inserted the new measure in its Manual of Regulations' provision on how banks must treat their real estate exposure.

"The equity investment of a bank in a corporation engaged primarily in real estate shall be included in the computation of the bank's total investments in real estate, unless otherwise provided by the Monetary Board," the circular said.

Banks must not lend more than 20 percent of their funds to the real estate or property sector, and their total exposure must not exceed 50 percent of their net worth, it stated.

Prior to the BSP order, the banks' direct investments in real estate companies and in stocks of property companies were not included in the computation of their real estate exposure.

The BSP issued the order in view of growing concerns about the banks' rising exposure in the real estate sector.

This also forms part of the BSP's efforts to address the swelling of non-performing loans and foreclosed assets of the banking system.

As of June this year, the banks' NPL ratio rose to P267.06 billion or 16.96 percent of their total loan portfolio. The level of foreclosed assets grew by 5.3 percent to P144.8 billion, or 4.8 percent of total assets.

Also, the central bank has been considering imposing a 10-percent provisioning for foreclosed assets starting the first year of the assets' repossession and classification as non-performing assets.

Current rules allow banks to keep their non-performing assets for five years before the 10-percent provisioning requirement is imposed.

The central bank was also planning to tighten the conditions on the appraisal of the banks' foreclosed assets.

"These measures are meant to strengthen the banking system and to keep banks from incurring losses. The idea is to force them to sell their non-performing assets even at minimum profit or break even," said a BSP official.

The BSP official said that several banks were now operating more like real estate companies than banks because of their huge real estate exposure.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of September 18, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	-	1.75 M
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	800,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	320,000	325,000
CAPITOL HILLS	125,000	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000**	400,000/450,000*/700,000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	240,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	500,000	Pls. call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	300,000/400,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	-	400,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	700,000	750,000/850,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	175,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	250,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	170,000/Pls. call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000*
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ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	1,700,000	1,825,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	390,000/900,000*	400,000/950,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	760,000	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	190,000
VALLY GOLF	250,000	280,000
WACK WACK	7.0 M	7.5 M

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others

Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7

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GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,700,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	2,000,000	1,600,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	135,000	125,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	200,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	350,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	400,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	300,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	14,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	780,000	700,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	900,000	800,000
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	150,000
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	240,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,900,000	1,800,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	900,000	850,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	265,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,000,000	

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PSE says no to proposed change in bourse location

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said it was willing to waive the 2004 deadline for the completion of its new headquarters at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in view of the difficult economic environment but stressed that the matter of the unified bourse's new location was non-negotiable.

In a press briefing yesterday, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said the PSE would never agree to locate its new headquarters in any area other than the central business district of the Global City as agreed upon by the PSE and the Metro Pacific Corp. group.

Garcia said the PSE felt "short-changed" with the MPC group's insinuation that the future bourse would be put up on a 4,000-square meter lot in the e-Square zone of Global City, instead of the main business hub in Capital Place.

"An arrangement can be made. We can extend the construction timetable but we could build a higher edifice to compensate for the delay," Garcia said.

The PSE chief said the bourse was willing to make some concessions as it acknowledged that a lot of businesses were still reeling from the adverse impact of the Asian crisis.

However, Garcia said the PSE would insist that the MPC group must stick, at the very least, to the original location agreed upon in February 1999 when the deed of donation was signed with the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Capital Consortium Inc. (CCI).

FBDC president and chief executive officer Ricardo S. Pascua, for his part, said that the PSE's move was 'surprising as it was unfortunate.'

"We simply cannot see the logic for the press conference wherein some PSE officials took us to task for matters that had earlier been agreed upon during a meeting last week with a majority of the members of the PSE building committee," Pascua said.

He said that recent discussions on how to implement certain provisions in the 1999 agreement for the PSE relocation to the Global City had been very encouraging.

FBDC, a joint venture between the MPC-led consortium Bonifacio Land Corp. and state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority, is the developer of the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Part of the 1999 agreement calls for the provision to the PSE of a free construction design and detailed engineering plans as well as P250 million for the stock exchange structure.

New mutual fund gets SEC OK

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of Philam Dollar Bond Fund Inc., a member of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. group, to operate as an open-end investment company or mutual fund.

The SEC also approved Philam Dollar Bond Fund's application to register P250 million in authorized capital consisting of 5 million common shares with a par value of P50.

SEC documents showed that out of the 5 million shares, 1.25 million shares amounting to P62.5 million have been subscribed while the balance of 3.75 million shares would be offered for sale to the public.

Philam Dollar Bond Fund aims to preserve the capital and the returns as well as the inflows derived from investments in dollar-denominated fixed income instruments. It will also deal with short- to long-term debt instruments that will focus on dollar-denominated securities issued by the Philippine government here and abroad.

Philam Assets Management Inc. will act as the investment manager and principal distributor of the fund.

The minimum initial investment in the fund was pegged at $2,000.

The offer price will be computed based on net asset value per share in a given banking day. The net asset value per share is defined as the difference between the total assets of the fund less its total liabilities divided by the number of shares outstanding.

The dollar mutual fund plans to use its proceeds in building up its investments in fixed-income instruments including but not limited to treasury bills and other government securities, bonds or other evidence of obligations issued by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or guaranteed by the Philippine government.

The fund will also invest in savings deposits, time deposits and other deposit substitutes with commercial banks and financial institutions subject to the approval of the board of directors of the fund management company.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, Sept. 17, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	54	54	319,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	27	27	117,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	209	203	206	69,290
Philippine National Bank	51	51	50	51	75,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.5	17.75	18.5	28,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	22	22	22	22	4,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1200	1160	1170	3,140
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	960	930	930	16,880
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	29	29	28	28	2,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.42	0.44	0.39	0.41	2,160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	650	630	630	7,560
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.027	4,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	740,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	27,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	497.5	497.5	477.5	477.5	138,480
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	40,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.024	0.025	68,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	30	30	27.5	28	48,700
Manila Electric Co. B	42.5	42.5	38.5	38.5	1,710,300
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.36	1.36	4,901,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	320,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.8	1,088,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	300,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.2	1.38	1.18	1.38	1,130,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	789,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	451,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2.02	2	2.02	35,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.1	5.1	300,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	164,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25	25	24	24.5	53,500
Pure Foods Corp. A	78	78	78	78	300
RFM Corp.	2.04	2.04	1.86	1.86	1,153,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39	37.5	38.5	257,200
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50	48.5	49.5	73,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	70,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6.1	5.8	5.9	3,695,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	440,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11	10.5	10.5	2,100
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.75	420,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	86,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	180,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.19	0.19	490,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.26	1.26	5,196,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.135	0.135	1,030,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.15	530,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	1,100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	90,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	27.5	27.5	25.5	26	262,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.11	0.11	730,000
Ionics Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.6	85,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.62	1.62	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.64	4,240,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,720,000
Music Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.84	0.84	240,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	150,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	360,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	210,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	23,900,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11	11	10	10.5	45,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	1,420,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.47	3,320,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	30	28	28	196,700
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	510	510	2,230
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	12,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	6,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.009	0.009	0.0075	0.008	65,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.5	18,081,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	1,300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.23	0.25	4,210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	3,230,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.66	1.68	4,560,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,490,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	69,000
SM Development Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.72	380,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	11,582,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,100,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.031	0.031	0.028	0.029	12,600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	1,730,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0026	0.0026	101,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	780,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.38	1,480,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	4,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	636,810	58,845,415.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	303,976,810	238,427,095.68
PRO	46,102,000	160,341,080.00
Mining	122,494,000	2,051,850.00
OIL	31,000,000	164,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	504,260,620	459,987,140.68

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	491.77	DOWN 23.37
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,646.77	DOWN 79.95
PRO	468.60	DOWN 21.48
Mining	1,200.83	UP 10.11
OIL	1.36	DOWN 0.08
All Shares Index	657.00	DOWN 33.86
Composite	1,178.11	DOWN 58.31

NO. OF ADVANCES: 7; NO. OF DECLINES: 75; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 3,065

CURRENCIES

Sep. 17, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.085423	1.000000	51.2580
Japan	Yen	0.009264	0.008535	0.4375
United Kingdom	Pound	1.596983	1.471300	75.4159
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139336	0.128370	6.5800
Switzerland	Franc	0.669394	0.616713	31.6115
Canada	Dollar	0.693694	0.639100	32.7590
Singapore	Dollar	0.626687	0.577367	29.5947
Australia	Dollar	0.559208	0.515198	26.4080
Bahrain	Dinar	2.879259	2.652661	135.9701
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.289446	0.266667	13.6688
Brunei	Dollar	0.622732	0.573723	29.4079
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024618	0.022681	1.1626
UAE	Dirham	0.295594	0.272331	13.9591
Korea	Won	0.000838	0.000772	0.0396
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.921300	47.2240
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.471053	24.1452
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140451	7.1992
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.418068	21.4293
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.066953	3.4319
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022838	1.1706
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000476	0.0244
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154952	7.9425
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004595	0.2355
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005537	0.2838
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022838	1.1706
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.16981	59.9621

Jobless rate drops to 10.1 %

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY's unemployment rate fell to 10.1 percent as of July this year from 13.3 percent in April as the domestic economy managed to create more job opportunities to cushion the impact of the global slowdown.

The National Statistics Office, which reports the labor force survey after every quarter, yesterday said the unemployment rate also represented a significant decline from the 11.2 percent recorded in July last year.

Unemployment usually peaks each year in April due to the seasonal increase in new job entrants among fresh college graduates.

The unemployment rate declined in July due to the increase in employment in the agriculture, industry and services sectors by 11.4 percent, 6.1 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively, from last year's levels. The percentage of employed Filipinos rose by 8.1 percent year-on-year to 29.3 million during the period despite an annual expansion in the country's labor force by 6.7 percent to 32.57 million.

From April to July, however, there was a decline in labor force participation or the number of people looking for jobs to 32.66 million from 33.62 million.

Agriculture was the biggest employer among the sectors, accounting for a 37.5-percent share. Unpaid family workers contributed substantially to the increase in employment while wage and salary workers declined.

Within the services sector, wholesale and retail trade contributed the biggest increase in employment while slight increases were also noted in the financial, insurance, real estate, business services, transportation, storage and communication sub-sectors.

Despite the sharp contraction of export receipts, employment in the industry sector was led by higher employment in manufacturing. There was also an improvement in the absorptive capacity in construction, electricity, gas and water while employment in the mining sector contracted by 12.3 percent. Almost all regions in the country enjoyed an increase in employment rate except the areas affected by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group. These three affected regions—Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Central Visayas and Southern Mindanao—experienced loss of jobs.

But for Bankers Association of the Philippines' Johnny Noe Ravalo, the numbers showed that Philippine labor remained a concern, specially with the decline in the number of people striving to look for jobs from April to July. "It's not an issue of unemployed versus employed," Ravalo said, noting that from a cash flow standpoint, the increase in employment simply due to the higher number of unpaid family workers did not bode well over the long term.

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* *Construction Supervisory Courses*			
(Aligned with DPWH Knowledge & Skill Requirements)			
Road Construction Seminar	Sept. 27-28	Makati	2,000.00
Materials Engineer's Course *(includes DPWH Bluebook)*	Oct. 5, 12, 19 & Nov. 9	Makati	2,300.00
* *Basic Construction Technology Courses (Skills Level)*			
(Aligned with TESDA Skill Standard Requirements)			
Heavy Equipment Maintenance - Upgrading			
Hydraulic System	Oct. 10-11	Cavite	850.00
Heavy Equipment Operations	Oct. 18-19	Cavite	
Bulldozer			2,600.00
Motor Grader			1,600.00
Payloader			1,600.00
Hydraulic Excavator			1,600.00

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AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	-
2.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000.00	-
3.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	900,000.00	-
5	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	-
6	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "C"	-	Please call
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	Please call
8.	EAGLERIDGE GOLD CLUB "B"	500,000.00	-
9.	FOREST HILLS "A"	250,000.00	-
10.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	300,000.00	-
11.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	350,000.00	-
12.	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000.00	Please call
13.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	Please call
14.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	-	Please call
15.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000.00	-
16.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	850,000.00	-
17.	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
18.	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
19.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	400,000.00	-
20.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	600,000.00	-
21.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000.00	Please call
22.	PUNTA FUEGO (IND.)	945,000.00	-
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Sun, Sept 16, at 7:00 pm
Mon, Sept 17, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
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Location; Shangri-la Makati, Ayala Ave/Makati Ave, Makati City, Metro Manila
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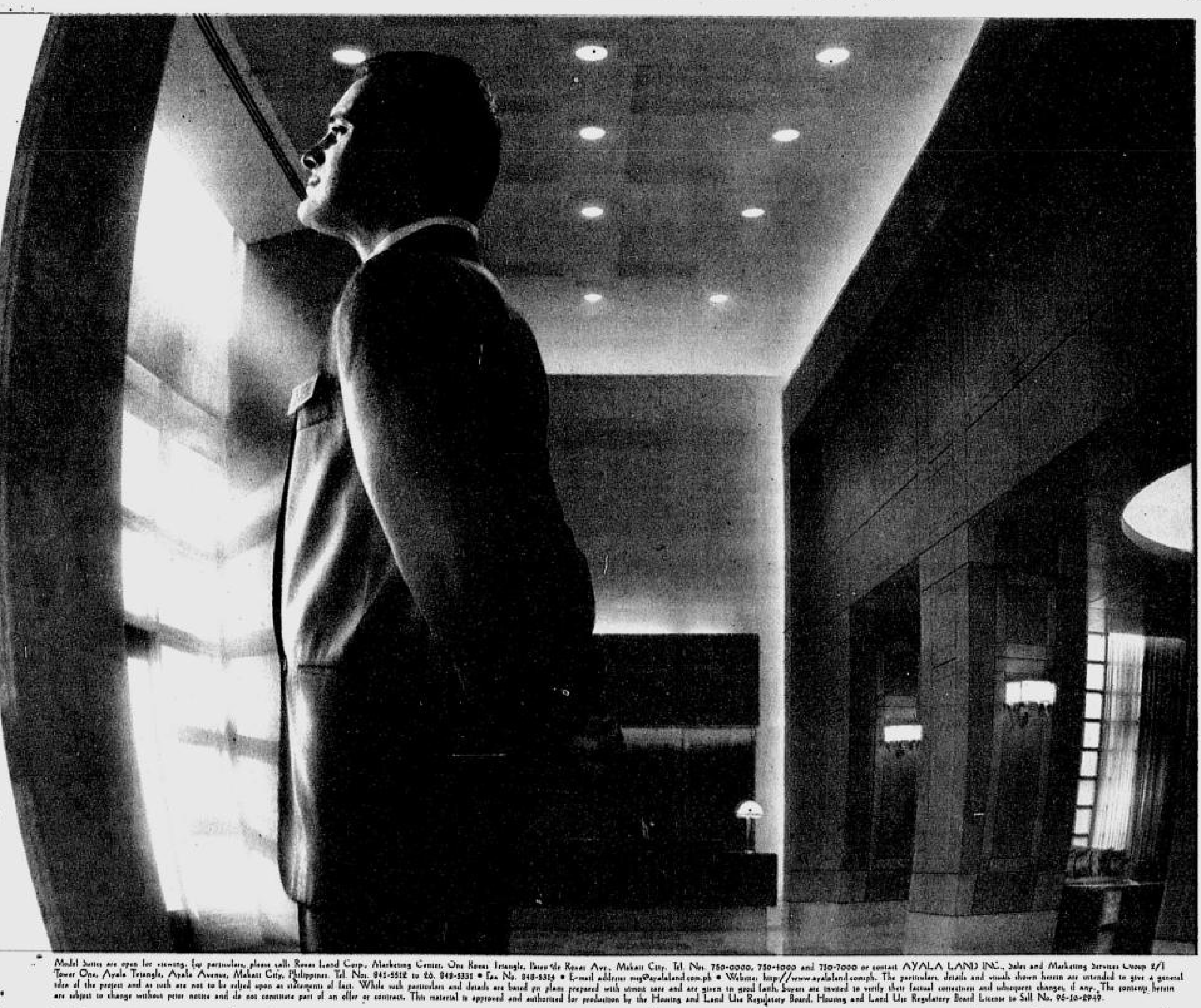

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

Loan No. : 1331-PHI(SF)
Contract No.: WHSMP/ADB-2001-G001

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project (WHSMP), Department of Health (DOH) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of Emergency OB Supplies and Various Reproductive Health supplies.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) desires to procure the Goods described and itemized herein through International Shopping in accordance with the applicable Guidelines of the ADB, and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery of:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Water for Injections (Triple Distilled Water) Inj. 10 ml ampule	22,681 amps.
5% Dextrose Lactated Ringers Inj. 1 liter plastic (IV Infusion)	445,752 btls.
Infusion Administration Set with air vent with needle, adult	39,153 pcs.
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Cotton Balls, sterile	100,348 pks.
Syringe 10 cc, disposable	68,166 pks.
Cherries, sterile	103,110 pks.
Gauze 4"x4", sterile	63,937 pks.
Surgical gloves, sterile .	142,156 pcs.
Hypodermic needle G-21, disposable	124,990 pcs.
Gauze strips 4"x8", sterile	51,070 pks.
Plain 2-0 suture (Ethicon), sterile	39,163 pcs.
Povidone Iodine, Surgical skin cleanser, 7.5%, 60ml	52,075 btls.
Povidone Iodine, Solution: 10%, 60 mL	37,238 btls.
Pethidine (meperidine) 50 mg/mL 30 mL vial (IM, IV SC) as (hydrochloride)	1,273 vials.
Diazepam 5 mg/mL, 2 mL ampul (IM,IV)	37,355 vials.
Lidocaine HCL 2% (50mL/vial)	8,069 vials.
D5W 500 mL	37,265 btls.
Naloxone (for opoid poisoning), Inj: 10 mcg/mL, 1mL ampul (neonatal) (IM, IV, SC0 as hydrochloride	778 amps.
Atrophine Sulfate 1 mg/mL, 1 mL ampul	9,826 amps.
Epinephrine (adrenaline) 1 mg/mL, 1 mL ampul (IM, SC) (as hydrochloride)	358 btls.
Glutaraldehyde 2% solution (with alkaline activating solution)	20,080 btls.

SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES:

	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 20 - Oct. 8, 2001	
Pre-Bid Conference	September 27, 2001	10:00 AM
Deadline of Submission of Bids	October 10, 2001	10:00 AM
Bid Opening	October 10, 2001	10:00 AM

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the **Office of the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines**.
4. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at this address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000.00) in cash. For foreign bidders, cost shall be ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US Dollar (US $150) including mailing fee of FIFTY US Dollar in the form of a bank draft issued to the Department of Health (DOH).
5. A pre-bidding conference will be held on the scheduled date at the DOH Convention Hall, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
6. All proposals must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the Total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before the deadline of submission of bids, and will be publicly opened at the above stated time and date at the DOH Convention Hall.
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to annul the procurement process any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
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(PDI - Sept. 18 & 23, 2001)

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Notice is hereby given that the S2 Card No. 794089 under the name of Rafael B. Cruz was lost

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

ANICETO DOLLETE, substituted by his wife-beneficiary, PATRICIA S. DOLLETE,
Petitioner,

SSC CASE NO. 11-13719-91

-versus-

HDA. TIPOLO/ANITA, JOSE PEPITO, ANAMOR, PINKY and CARLOS, all surnamed GOMEZ, and MARITES OPENANO-GOMEZ, for herself and in behalf of the minors PATRICIA ISABEL and MIGUEL ANTONIO GOMEZ,
Respondents,

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.

x--x

SUMMONS

TO : **PINKY GOMEZ
and ANAMOR GOMEZ**

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, your respective Answers to the Second Amended Petition filed by Aniceto Dollete for social security benefits.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answers upon Atty. Constancio C. Mahinay, counsel for petitioner at 1088 Malaspina Street, Villmonte 6100 Bacolod City and upon the SSS thru the Senior Vice-President, Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the second amended petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, **September 11, 2001.**

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI -- Sept. 18, 2001)

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K2K – new, original, action-packed Atlas Komiks now on sale

ATLAS Publishing Co. Inc., the pioneer in *komiks* publishing in the Philippines, has come up with a new comic book comparable, if not surpassing, the quality of the now popular Manga comics from Japan as well as the American comics.

Titled K2K, the new *komiks* is an original concept of young writer Mark Navarro with illustrations by veteran artist Lan Medina and coloring by Gilbert Monsano.

K2K centers on the adventures of new superheroes – modern-day versions of the 1800s Katipunan – called Katipunan 2000 or K2K.

The Katipunan 2000 characters, led by the feisty, hunky Supremo, now have super powers and are aided with high-tech equipment and weapons in their fight against poverty, injustice and their mission to establish peace and order and economic stability in the country.

In K2K Big Bang, the first of three parts of K2K *komiks*, the K2K superheroes battle an unidentified group of terrorists out to wreak havoc to satisfy their greed for money and power. They start by bombing the crowded Mundo Mall and then placing it under an impenetrable "forcefield". Only the terrorists hold the key to the forcefield. Hundreds of shoppers at the Mundo Mall are held hostage.

Can the K2K superheroes save the day? The K2K superheroes contemplate their options in their Pugad Lawin secret headquarters.

Aside from its exciting plot, K2K is set in colorful, real-as-life illustrations, printed on quality paper – definitely a total improvement of the newsprint *komiks* of old.

The first of its kind in the Philippines, K2K will definitely give its imported counterparts a run for their money.

Mark Navarro works for a local anime magazine. Lan Medina has worked for X-Force, Marvel Comics and Avalon Studios. Gilbert Monsanto, a seasoned colorist and lettering expert, has also worked for Avalon Studios and was part of the Tales of Darkness of Top Cow.

K2K Big Bang! is now available at only P35 per copy at all National Book Store branches.

IABC crisis communication forum

THE INTERNATIONAL Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines Chapter is holding the forum "Crisis Communication: Managing the Global Repercussions of a Major Disaster" today, Sept. 18, 11:30 a.m. at Club 1851, 20th floor, BPI Head Office Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

In view of the impact created by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and various institutions in the United States, the panel discussion is highlighting insights on how crisis communication and the management of global stakeholders can be done effectively.

Panelists include a US Embassy official, business consultant John Forbes, political analytical Nelson Navarro and broadcast journalist Gene Orejana of the ABS-CBN News Channel.

The Making of a Municipal Bond Seminar
August 17, 2001, 1:00-5:30 p.m.

DAVAO CITY MUNICIPAL BOND SEMINAR

The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) through its LGU Committee recently held a seminar on 'The Making of a Municipal Bond' at The Marco Polo Davao on Aug. 17. The seminar was co-sponsored by USAid-Agile. Shown above are (from lower left) Min Ponce Millan, president, Ponce-Millan Realty Inc., a guest from the Department of Finance, and Araceli A. Pe Benito, proprietor and general manager, Davao Medica Distributor and Retailer. From upper left are Felipe Q. Tan, PRO, Finex-Davao; Nicardo M. Leopoldo, vice president, Davao Business Center, Philippine National Bank; speaker Lydia N. Orial, senior vice president, LGU Guarantee Corp. and chair, Finex LGU Committee; Mercedes B. Suleik, executive director, Capuital Markets Development Center Inc.; Jose C.F. Allado, accountant, Allado Construction Co. Inc. and president, Finex-Davao, and speaker Dr. Sixto K. Roxas, chair, Preferred Ventures Corp.

BITS Clips

'Muro Ami' for a cause

THE ADVERTISING Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), in cooperation with GMA Films Inc., will present the "Wave of Change," a special showing of the critically acclaimed and certified box-office hit "Muro Ami", today, Sept. 18, 7 p.m. at Glorietta 4 Cinema 6, Ayala Center, Makati City. On the same occasion AdBoard shall turn over its donation to Senden Home, a regular beneficiary of the AdBoard's community outreach program. Representatives of the nine member organizations of the AdBoard, namely: PANA, 4As Phils., Asap, CAAP, IBA, KBP, Mores, OAAP, and Primo will be present to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. Participating sponsors for this special showing include the Philippine Daily Inquirer; GMA Films; Ayala Land; Citibank, N.A.; Nestle Phils.; PLDT; The Philippine Star; Century Canning; College Assurance Plan (CAP) and Baby Magazine.

Xavier '76 reunion

THE CLASS of '76 of Xavier School, San Juan, will be holding a reunion on Saturday, Sept. 22, at 6 p.m. All classmates who had spent even just one year with the batch are welcome to enjoy an evening of reminiscing and renewing friendships after 25 years. For particulars, call Imee or Sally at the Xavier Alumni office at 726-4855 or 727-3329.

ACA Video bags national consumers award

ACA Video was chosen as the year's recipient of the National Consumers Excellence Award as the most outstanding video rental chain and most outstanding franchising company by the Parangal ng Bayan Awards Foundation and the National Consumers Council.

Now on its 10th year, the National Consumers Business Excellence Award is conferred to outstanding consumer companies and services commemorative of the 2001 National Achievers Month Celebration. This year's panel is headed by Justice Regina Benitez and Presidential Consultant on Civic Affairs Justo Cruz.

The affair integrated with the holding of the 16th Annual Parangal ng Bayan or the People's Choice Awards. No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo graced the said affair.

ACA Video was established in 1991 with its very first outlet in Quezon Avenue. It was envisioned to be a completely different video store offering the widest selection of all-original home video titles in all the standard formats in a bigger and well-it store environment. With the success of its first outlet, ACA opened other branches in Greenhills and Alabang. By 1994, ACA Video had seven branches in Metro Manila. Furthermore, ACA Video expanded its provincial operations in key areas like Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and other franchise branches in the Visayas-Mindanao area.

In 1995, ACA Video decided to accelerate its expansion program by offering to qualified investors the ACA Video Franchise Package. ACA Video takes pride in being the first local video rental/sales business to offer a franchise. As of December 2000, ACA Video had reached more than a hundred stores nationwide.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

Ninth Offering

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is accepting bids for the sale of the ninety four (94) residential lots in Monterrazas Village, Bgy. Tuding, Itogon, Benguet with areas ranging from 283 to 901 square meters and base prices ranging from P350.00 to P4,500.00 per square meter under credit terms.

Interested parties may secure the bid documents for a non-refundable fee of P200.00 from the NHA Project Office located at the D'Castellamonte Building, #12 Otek Street, Baguio City.

SCHEDULE: The submission of Pre-qualification requirements will be received during office hours from **14 September 2001** to **04 October 2001**. A pre-bid conference will be held on **27 September 2001** at 2:00 PM. Sealed offers will be received from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon of **04 October 2001** which will be opened at 2:00 PM of the same day. All transactions will be held/entertained at the NHA Baguio Project Office.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, call off this tender prior to bid acceptance and call for new tender under amended rules, as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI – Sept. 14 & 18, 2001)

OBITUARIES

MANUEL M. SUZARA

Retiree of United Laboratories

Died in the grace of our Lord
on September 16, 2001 at the age of 63.

His body lies in state at
Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday,
September 20, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at
the Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat, Parañaque City.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdended,
and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Paula de Luna Orfanel

of Catanauan, Quezon and Fairview, Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 16, 2001
at the age of 87.

Her bereaved husband **Ulpiano** (†); sister **Gregoria Consolacion**; her loving children **Abel** and **Remy**, **Roger** and **Letty**, **Rolly** and **Lita**, **Esther** and **Obet Cruz**, **Vangie** and **Cesar Villapando**; grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Good Shepherd Parish Church, Fairview, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 2:00 PM Mass.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

"My soul finds rest to God alone, from him comes my salvation."
Psalms 62:2

Our dearly beloved daddy

CONRADO I. GONZALES

of Padre Garcia and Lipa City, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 16, 2001 at the age of 66.

His loving wife **Emma**; his children **Ruel & Marilyn**, **Edwin** and **Osang**, **Roy & Mariel**, **Pinky & Carlo Ramos**, **Anna & Johnny Yu**, **Vida & Obet Pitargue**, and **Ethel** and his grandchildren and dear relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Lipa Cathedral Mortuary, Lipa City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 20, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

FR. ANTONIO B. OLAGUER, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Sunday, September 16, 2001.

Wake: Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies,
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.
Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 19th September in
the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Quezon City,
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

Our dearly beloved

FELICIANO VENTURA NIETO

was called by our loving Father
on September 14, 2001 at the age of 88.

His loving wife **Pilar**; children **Tating** and **Dela**, **Tacing** and **Ben**, **Jose** and **Irene**, **Ike** (†) and **Anita**, **Bart** and **Sally**, **Julie** and **Terry**, **Jack** and **Ason**, **Rose** and **Danny**, **Luming** and **Ansel**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nieto's compound, Igulot, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Holy Masses will be offered daily. Interment will be on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at the Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park, Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan after the 2:00 PM Mass at the St. Martin of Tours Parish Church, Bocaue, Bulacan.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

YOLANDA B. MARTINEZ

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 17, 2001
at the age of 77.

Her loving brothers and sisters **Lily** and **Ernesto** (†) **Rodas**, **Cely** and **Marcelo** (†) **Ilagan**, **Hector** and **Cris Martinez**, **Segundo Jr.** (†) and **Elizabeth Martinez**, **Oscar Martinez**, **Nita** and **Romy** (†) **Aquino**, **Charito** and **Ben** (†) **Valdez**, **Bobby** and **Fe Martinez**, **Bina** and **Bernardo Hizon**, **Tita** and **Gualbert Picache**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. John Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

Her remains will be cremated after the 10:00 AM Mass on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at Sto. Domingo Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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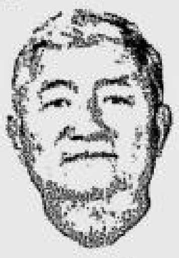


JOSE ANTONIO YAP ANGELES

of Angeles City

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 16, 2001 at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife **Victoria F. Lazatin-Angeles**; children **Ma. Loreto** and **Romel Canlas**, **Ma. Barbara** and **Joaquin Narciso**, **Andrew** and **Unika**, **Rafael** and **Leah Marie**, **Agustin** and **Maricel**, **Augusto** and **Noemi**, **Mary Ann** and **Ramon del Rosario**, and **Ma. Corazon** and **Joseph Pineda**; brother **Emmanuel**; sisters **Rosario**, **Lutgarda**, **Jesusa**, **Josefina** and **Lourdes**; sister-in-law, brothers-in-law, sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Grace Chapel, Angeles University Foundation.

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., Carmel of the Divine Infant Jesus of Prague and Saint Joseph (Carmelite Monastery), Sto. Rosario Street to be followed by interment at the Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City.

* *In lieu of flowers, donations may be made directly to charitable institutions.*

The Board of Trustees,
Administration and Staff of
Angeles University Foundation
and AUF Medical Center
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of

JOSE ANTONIO YAP ANGELES

Past Executive Vice President and University Trustee
Past Vice President and Trustee, AUF Medical Center
who joined his Creator on September 16, 2001

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Grace Chapel, Angeles University Foundation.

Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., Carmel of the Divine Infant Jesus of Prague and Saint Joseph (Carmelite Monastery), Sto. Rosario Street, to be followed by interment at the Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City.

* *In lieu of flowers, donations may be made directly to charitable institutions.*

MIGUEL R. IMPERIO, SR.

of Rizal, Nueva Ecija and Cabanatuan City

Peacefully joined our Creator and his wife Emerenciana Castañeda on September 15, 2001 at the age of 94.

His children **Loreto** and **Celedenio Valencia**, **Zenaida** and **Florencio** (†) **Bernabe**, **Lilia** and **Rodolfo** (†) **dela Cruz**, **Jorge** (†) and **Nena**, **Violeta** and **Rolando Veneracion**, **Angelito** and **Corazon**, **Miguel Jr.** and **Julieta**, and **Perlita** (†) and **Edmundo Relucio**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Veneracion Family residence at 256 Mabini Homesite, Cabanatuan City. The body will be cremated on Wednesday, September 19, 2001 following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Dambana ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo, Mabini Homesite, Cabanatuan City.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Dr. Jose Antonio "Tony" Yap Angeles, 63

HE HAS lived an unselfish and steadfast life of public service. Today, the many people whose lives he touched bid Dr. Jose Antonio Y. Angeles goodbye.

Dr. Angeles, or Tony to his loved ones, lost his battle against a lingering illness. He joined his Creator on Sept. 16.

His colorful life did not only revolve within the confines of Angeles City but in other parts of the country as well. During his lifetime, he served as district governor of Rotary International District 3790 (1998-1999); national director, JCI Senate (1992-1993); president, Rotary Club of Angeles City, 1987-1988; University trustee and executive vice president, Angeles University Foundation (AUF); director, AUF Medical Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made directly to charitable institutions.

"Free at last."

Manuel "Boy" M. Suzara

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 16, 2001
at the age of 63.

His parents **Ildefonso** *and* **Pura** *(†);*
sister **Edna**; *brothers* **Bodjie**, **Ben** *and* **Jesse**;
brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunties, uncles,
nephews and nieces, cousins and other relatives
request pious readers to pray for the
eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Premiere Suite of the
Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe,
Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at
the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City
after the 8:00 AM Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

Manolo M. Magbiray

Of Malabon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 16, 2001
at the age of 51.

His loving wife **Rebecca**; children **Magnolia, Margaret** and **Melvin**; together with his brothers, sister and relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Guadalupe Chapel, Floresco Funeral Homes, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

FLORENCIO ORTIZ DULLAS

widower of **Elisa G. Dullas**

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 16, 2001
at the age of 62.

His bereaved children **Michael** and **Cecilia**, **Flor**, **Cecilia**, **Joseph** and **Joy**, **Madelaine**, **Peter**; his grandchild **Kelly** and dear relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Abagon, Gerona, Tarlac. Interment will be on Wednesday, September 19, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at the Gerona Cemetery, Gerona, Tarlac.

LOURDES NUÑEZ ELEAZAR

11 February 1905 -- 17 September 2001

Husband **Luis** (†); children **Rodolfo** (†) and **Carolina**, **Aurora** (†) and **Amado Esteban**, **Justo** (†) and **Helena** (†), **Lourdes** and **Federico Alfonso** (†), **Esther** and **Ernesto Malpid** (†), **Erlinda** and **Santiago Adre**, **Amelia** and **Rhodeline Landero** (†).

Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will take place after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, September 22, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

22 FAKE CALOOCAN TITLES VOIDED

Courts misled in Maysilo Estate titling cases

THE SUPREME Court, the Court of Appeals and some trial courts were misled into believing that there were two Original Certificates of Title 994—one issued on April 19, 1917 and another on May 3, 1917 which covered 13,312,618.89 square meters, or 95 percent of the old Maysilo Estate.

The courts' ruling was that the April 1917 OCT is the genuine, superior "mother" title, being the earlier document, and thus the legally valid OCT. But the original document on file at the Caloocan registry of deeds and Land Registration Authority title records clearly show that there is only one OCT 994 and it was issued or registered on May 3, 1917.

As a result of the erroneous rulings, land titling over substantial areas of Caloocan City, Malabon and a chunk of Quezon City which used to comprise the Maysilo Estate is in turmoil and besieged by overlapping titles and conflicting claims.

Cancellation

Recently, the National Capital Regional Trial Court, Branch 122, at Caloocan City ordered the cancellation of 22 fraudulent transfer certificates of title in the name of one Lilia D. Sevilla.

Covering thousands of square meters of commercial and residential lands, Sevilla's titles were among scores of other dubious titles covering the affected areas. Other Caloocan trial courts had earlier rashly ordered these titles to be issued and which the registry of deeds unquestioningly granted to alleged heirs and buyers of their lots in the last few years.

The Republic of the Philippines' petition against the Sevilla titles was filed by then Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza in 1985, and taken up by Mendoza's successors, including Solicitor General Ricardo P. Galvez last year. The Maysilo Estate titling mess was described by the late Senate President Marcelo B. Fernan when he chaired the committee on justice and human rights as "the mother of all land titling scams" in the country.

In the same order, the Caloocan trial court declared Solid Manila Corp. as the lawful owner of eight parcels covered by transfer titles registered in its name, and Guillermo Mascariñas as the valid owner of two lots covered by another title issued in his name. Both intervened in the case. Their lots were overlapped by the Sevilla titles, which were supposed to be direct transfers from an OCT 994 registered on April 19, 1917.

Vicious fraud

Clear and substantial evidence has proved, Judge Remegio E. Zari stressed, that "there is only one OCT 994 and the same was issued and registered on May 3, 1917." Thus, the court said, "vicious fraud was maliciously done" to some trial courts, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court in previous cases which these courts decided on the basis of a "nonexisting" OCT 994 issued or registered April 19, 1917.

Judge Zari cited the official findings of the comprehensive reports of the Senate committees on justice and human rights and on urban planning, housing and resettlement, and the Department of Justice, which investigated the Maysilo Estate titling scam.

Judge Zari said the supposed April 19, 1917 OCT 994 was a "fabrication" of Caloocan City registry of deeds officials, some of

FERNAN

whom were found guilty of the administrative charges and dismissed from the service.

Only one OCT 994

The fact that there is only one OCT 994 and it was registered on May 3, 1917 "underscores the obvious fraud" also committed against the Supreme Court in the MWSS case, said the trial court.

In that case, the Supreme Court affirmed the title of one Jose B. Dimson, which was derived from an OCT 994 registered on April 19, 1917. The title of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System originated from OCT 994 issued on May 3, 1917, or 15 days later. Falling back on the settled titling principle that a title earlier registered is superior to another title issued later, the Court held that Dimson's title was valid and superior to the MWSS's two-decade-old title to its huge compound in Caloocan City.

The Court was misled into believing that there were indeed two versions of OCT 994. Unless the Court ruling in the MWSS case is reversed in a new decision finding that there was only one OCT 994 and it was issued on May 3, 1917, title holders in Caloocan, Malabon and a portion of Quezon City will continue to be at risk of losing their property because their titles were derived from OCT 994 registered on May 3, 1917.

Even now, some parties with titles allegedly derived from OCT 994 of circa April 19, 1917 have started pressuring property owners holding titles traced to OCT 994 with registry date May 3, 1917, to vacate their lots or face court suits.

Senate, DOJ reports

The Senate investigation was initiated by the late Senate President Fernan in 1998, while the Department of Justice investigation was conducted through a fact-finding committee formed by then Justice Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona and headed by then Undersecretary Ricardo Nepomuceno Jr.

Both the Senate and DOJ reports had urged the Office of the Solicitor General and the Land Registration Authority to file court suits to cancel not only the 22 titles of Lilia Sevilla, but also those of Dimson, Estelita Hipolito, CLT Realty Development Corp. and Eleuteria Rivera.

Both reports found their titles to be "null and void for overlapping other titles covering the same properties, which were legally and validly issued to other persons some 40 to 70 years earlier."

Solid Manila Corp. bought its lots from one of the earlier landowners whose titles issued on July 21, 1923, were traced to the original OCT 994 of the Maysilo Estate. In 1981, Mascariñas, now an octogenarian, bought his two lots from Luis Gonzaga whose title was a transfer from an earlier title owned by another party. Both titles were derived from OCT 994 registered on May 3, 1917.

Verification

Sevilla obtained her 22 titles in 1976. In 1981, the LRA through a verification committee found that the Sevilla titles were issued through fraud and misrepresentation. She supposedly bought the lots from three alleged children of Bartolome Rivera who, along with eight other relatives, in turn claimed being an heir of a Spanish lady who owned portions of the original Maysilo Estate. Their titles were supposedly direct transfers from OCT 994, although the records showed that at the time of the transactions, the original lots and titles from OCT 994 had long been legitimately transferred to other persons.

The LRA verification committee had debunked Rivera's claim of inheriting lots from one of the original co-owners of the Maysilo Estate. In an order, the Pasig court of first instance directed that the name of the co-owner, Maria de la Concepcion Vidal, be crossed out in OCT 994 and the names of Bartolome Rivera and others be substituted for Vidal's name by manually writing them on the face of the title itself, rather than by annotating the substitution on the appropriate portion of the title.

In another court order on May 17, 1963, the judge accepted Rivera's testimony or being 65 years old at the time. LRA pointed out that Rivera was therefore born in 1898 or earlier. Rivera could not have been a grandson and heir of Vidal who was born in 1903 or earlier and, therefore, his alleged children could not have inherited any property covered by OCT 994 and neither could they have sold anything from it to Sevilla. Moreover, records showed that Vidal died single in Madrid.

Sevilla's 22 titles

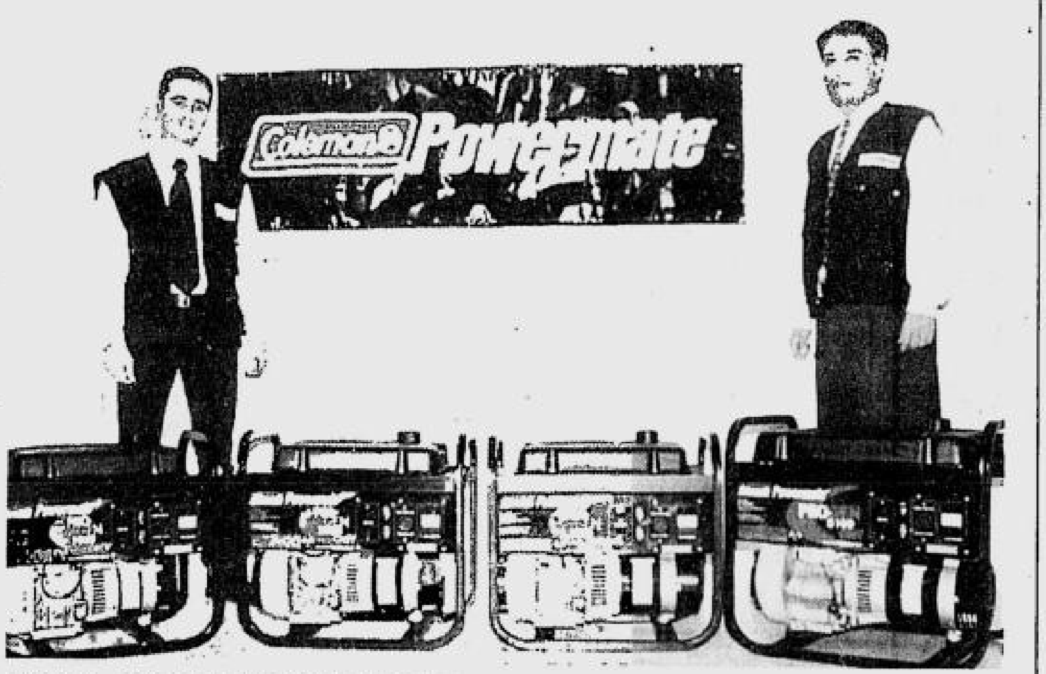
Judge Zari cited the LRA verification committee's findings on the technical description of the lots in Sevilla's 22 titles as against OCT 994. It showed that all the Sevilla titles were inside the original lots of OCT 994. On the face of the OCT 994's memorandum of encumbrances, almost all the original lots covered by transfer certificates of title had been issued to other persons between 1918 and 1974.

One Sevilla title covers a part of an original lot of OCT 994, but its technical description bears no tie line, thus, the land cannot be located on the ground, LRA said.

Another Sevilla title issued on Aug 2, 1979 which on its face contains 144,7737.28 square meters, has no land to stand on since the title to the original lot had been cancelled about half a century ago.

When Sevilla applied for the registration of the deed of sale over the lots and the issuance of titles in her name and that of her husband, the application was denied. They filed a court case to compel the registry of deeds to register the sale and issue the titles.

The petition was granted with respect to lots other than Lot 26. The court records show that the plans or sketches used as basis for technical description of the 22 titles were never approved by the Bureau of Lands, and the court ordered the issuance of the titles without the surrender of the owner's duplicate of OCT 994. *PLG News & Views*



QUIET, GAS-EFFICIENT POWER

Coleman Asia corporate sales manager David Nouvelot, left, and national sales manager Bobby Encarnacion recently introduced the new line of heavy-duty generators from Coleman Powermate. Powered by Robin Over Head Valve engines, these generators are quieter and more fuel-efficient—allowing up to 20 percent savings on gasoline. Coleman Asia is the regional office of Coleman Powermate, the leading manufacturer of generators in the United States.

Lighting retrofit deal lauded

EFFICIENT Lighting Initiative country director Alexander Ablaza hailed the AIC Gold Tower Condominium Corp. and the Asia RP Inc. for their pioneering efforts to advance energy efficiency in the country through their recently concluded lighting retrofit deal.

AIC Gold Tower Condominium Corp., a company with all of its residential units sold out, manages the imposing AIC Gold Tower in Ortigas Center, while Asia RP Inc., is an energy service company that will perform the lighting retrofit in the common areas of AIC Gold Tower. The agreement to this effect was signed Aug. 30. Retrofitting activities will be completed soon.

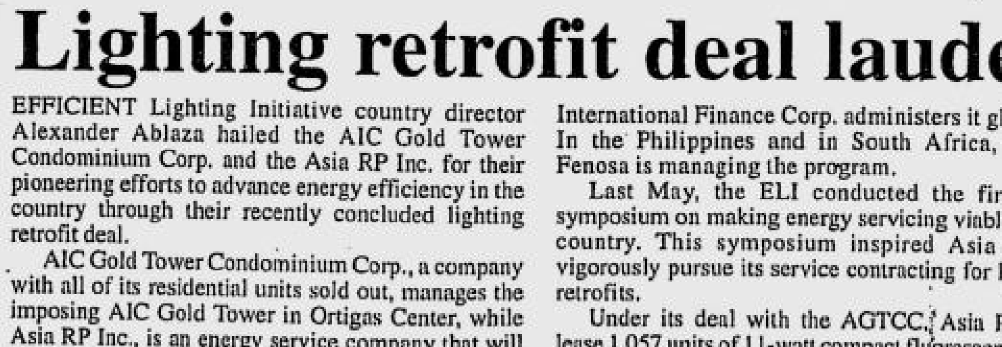
"This is the first-ever condominium lighting retrofit in the country using ELI qualified technology. We consider it a breakthrough in ELI's efforts to effect a massive transformation in the Philippine market toward energy-efficient lighting. For this, we congratulate Mr. Jaime Lardizabal, AGTCC president and Mr. Doug Kuffel, president of Asia RP," Ablaza noted.

The ELI is a United Nations' Global Environment Facility-funded climate change mitigation program being implemented in seven countries, one of which is the Philippines. The International Finance Corp. administers it globally. In the Philippines and in South Africa, Union Fenosa is managing the program.

Last May, the ELI conducted the first-ever symposium on making energy servicing viable in the country. This symposium inspired Asia RP to vigorously pursue its service contracting for lighting retrofits.

Under its deal with the AGTCC, Asia RP will lease 1,057 units of 11-watt compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to the condominium corporation, which will be paid for on installment basis over three years. Asia RP will also maintain the lighting facilities over the contract period. The full cost of the retrofit is pegged at P290,675, with unit cost of an 11-watt CFL at P275. The AGTCC will have return-on-investment within 2.1 months. For the project, Asia RP is recommending the use of ELI-qualified Ultralamp CFLs due to its long warranty period and superior power factor.

The retrofit deal will result in energy savings of close to 500,000 kilowatt hours per year. This translates to cost savings of as much as P1.625 million per year, with a baseline of just 1,057 CFLs replacing the same number of incandescent bulbs currently in use at the AIC Gold Tower.



ESTHETIC APPEAL

Because of its strength, durability and esthetic appeal, the Vazpave Concrete Paver, a product of Vazquez Commodities (Vazcom), is the choice of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. for its Fort Square project, situated adjacent to The Fort. The classic Vazpave Brickstone Paver, which was chosen by the FBDC for its pattern and adaptability, is excellent for paving walkways, plazas and parking spaces.

Firm unveils value-added realty services

THE ELECTRONIC Realty Associates Group, a global real estate sales and services company, is set to launch an exclusive and innovative package of value-added services in the local real estate market.

For the first time, Filipino home builders can avail themselves of the ERA's unique concept featuring a full range of home investment services designed to make home building as convenient and stress-free as possible.

These services consist of preconstruction counseling; construction supervision; interior design; selection of furniture, fixtures and appliances; relocation services; highly flexible financing options from preferred banks and a wide choice of luxury homes. The company has teamed up with a select group of contractors, architects and interior designers to make these services available to ERA customers at preferential rates.

Under its signature home series, the ERA, in tandem with one of its preferred architect-partners, has developed a selection of 10 beautifully designed leisure homes for a wide range of discriminating homebuyers.

Clients can choose from two-story, split-level and bungalow-type quintessential houses that all feature practical layouts for the kitchen, living, dining and bedroom areas.

Optional features include a vaulted ceiling, a wood-burning fireplace and wooden roof shingles. Additional home models may be made available to select clients.

"We at the ERA understand that for many Filipinos, no investment is more personal than the purchase or construction of a house," said Enrique Soriano III, ERA Philippines' CEO and country manager. 'With the ERA's package of value-added services, aspiring homeowners can rest assured that everything related to building a home is being taken care of in their behalf by the best qualified professionals, leaving no room for guesswork or costly mistakes."

The ERA is complementing its full range of value-added real estate services with a global marketing expertise and a leading-edge system of sales networking backed by more than 3,000 offices in major urban centers worldwide. For more information, lot owners and homebuyers may call up ERA Philippines at 867-8913 to 17 or visit its website at www. eraphilippines. com.

FBDC, Communidades hold briefing on project

OFFICIALS of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Communidades Developers Inc. recently met to discuss the technical aspects of Parque Bonifacio, CDI's residential condominium project, which will be located at the hub of the Global City.

The FBCD officials were briefed on the project's architectural, plumbing, electrical and engineering works, earthquake resistance and fire-retardant requirements, security systems and other related technical specifications.

Parque Bonifacio is designed to comprise 261 units—a mix of studio, one- and two-bedroom units, which may be combined for a 3-bedroom unit to suit the particular specifications of investors.

Construction of the project will start as soon as 80 percent of the total number of units have been booked by investors/buyers.

To date, over 50 percent of the bookings have been achieved despite the slump in the real estate sector due to the prevailing economic slowdown. Both the CDI and the FBDC are confident that the remaining 30 percent of the bookings are expected to come in by year-end or the first quarter of 2002.

The unique Communidades "at cost" concept pioneered in the country by CDI president Enrique V. Morns is fast gaining ground among local and foreign investors because of its very attractive benefits—at cost, easy terms, prime location, affordability and no risk safety feature.

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

REAL ESTATE CASE

Primelink says 'We are the victims'

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

"WE are the victims in this real estate case."

This was stressed by Ralph Lito Lopez, president and chief executive officer of Primelink Properties and Development Corp., a Mandaluyong City-based real estate firm.

Lopez accused another real estate company, Pamana Island Resort Hotel and Marina Club Inc. (PIRHMCI), of being the "culprit" in a failed joint-venture agreement (JVA) between the two firms and the "guilty party" in a Securities and Exchange Commission case.

In July 1996, Primelink and Pamana agreed to jointly develop the six-hectare Pamana Island, also called Snake Island, located in the middle of Subic Bay in Zambales, into the P800-million Subic Island Residential Marina and Yacht Club.

JVA termination

But in July 1998, Pamana "unilaterally and without basis terminated the JVA which Primelink resisted and vehemently objected to. As a consequence, Pamana aborted and prevented the project from being developed to the prejudice and damage of investors and Primelink. Pamana has failed and refused to address whatever misunderstanding it has with us or even seek resolution of the conflict through an arbitration process," Lopez told the INQUIRER.

"We brought in our money, our reputation, our partners' reputations. But now Pamana is passing the blame to Primelink to cover up the real reason the project was not developed," Lopez said in an interview.

Reaction

Lopez was reacting to an INQUIRER report on a permanent cease and desist ruling by the SEC, supposedly based on complaints filed by investors for alleged "noncompletion of the project and nonissuance of membership certificates."

"The statement issued by the SEC made it appear that Primelink continues to sell these shares to the public. This is unfounded and untrue. Statements issued by top SEC officials that Primelink continues to defy the order are, in fact, libelous to say the least," he said.

On June 5, the SEC issued a permanent CDO preventing Primelink from selling membership shares of the Subic island project without the required license from the commission.

In July, Primelink asked the Court of Appeals to reverse and set aside the SEC ruling. Pending resolution of the case, "a temporary restraining order be issued preventing the commission from implementing the assailed order, to be followed by the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction," lawyer Llewelyn Diaz had asked the same court.

Referral

Primelink referred the SEC ruling to the appellate court "because the SEC had acted with grave abuse and discretion and because they refused and failed to grant Primelink's motion to include Pamana as a third-party defendant in the case."

Pamana, Lopez noted, is the "majority shareholder in the joint-venture agreement to develop and market the Subic project and is the island owner. Their list of investors who purchased membership shares to the SEC is self-serving to clear itself from any liabilities."

"The fact remains that it was Pamana who gave Primelink the mandate to presell (as found in Article 10 of the 1996 agreement). As a majority shareholder of the project, it authorized, monitored and supported Primelink's selling campaign."

According to Lopez, "the real reason the project could not push through was Pamana's secretly mortgaging the property as early as September 1996 to Westmont Bank, which was a clear violation of the JVA and an act of treachery to Primelink and its investors and buyers."

"The annotation of the mortgage was not done until late 1998 and subsequently ended in foreclosure. Also, the project site island had an existing CDO issued by the DENR for violations in a previous project. Turnkey contractors, including Marina Ventures Ltd. Of Baltimore, Maryland, could not start construction of the project. They required a clean title to the island as a form of security. This was, of course, impossible because of Pamana's secretly mortgaging the island to Westmont Bank," Lopez explained.

He also pointed out that "failure to obtain SEC registration for the project was also because of Pamana's inaction. Primelink had submitted all pertinent documents as early as January 1997 but Pamana's counterpart papers were never submitted. We did our part as developer."

In the Court of Appeals case, Primelink assailed the SEC for refusing and failing to "grant our motion and prayer to implead Pamana as a third-party defendant, require Pamana and other parties to file their respective position papers and schedule a pretrial of the case before the case can be submitted for decision, and accord us a fair investigation and hearing in line with our right to procedural due process."

Primelink also cited the SEC's failure to "impose additional fines on Pamana as the guilty party in this case and absolving petitioner from such liability."

P30-M investment

In a petition for review of the SEC ruling, Primelink disclosed it had spent more than P30 million for the promotion of its joint-venture agreement with Pamana.

Specifically, Lopez said Primelink undertook the following: a full-scale feasibility study, including the planning, technical, conceptual, marketing and financial aspects of the project; its architectural, engineering and survey requirements; delivered the Phase I requirement of the dock system, consisting of 24 berths from Marina Ventures, valued at P18.5 million; a multimillion-peso advertising campaign and special boat show launch for the project, among others.

"That is why, in our petition, we actually asked for relief for our P30-million investment, among other things," Lopez said.

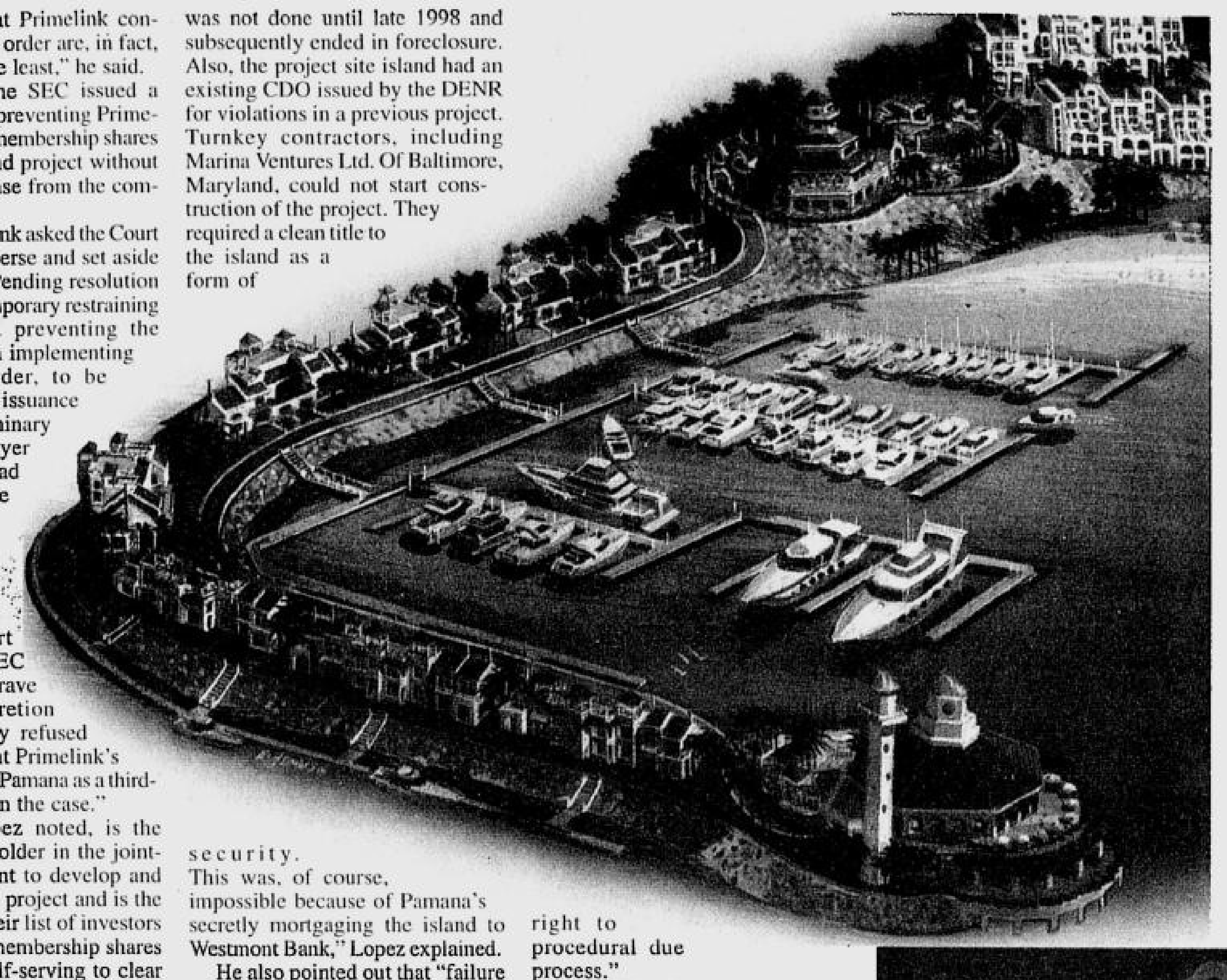
Threat

Last month, the SEC threatened to place the preneed firm Pamana Inc., PIRHMCI's sister company, under receivership unless it started making good on its payments to plan holders.

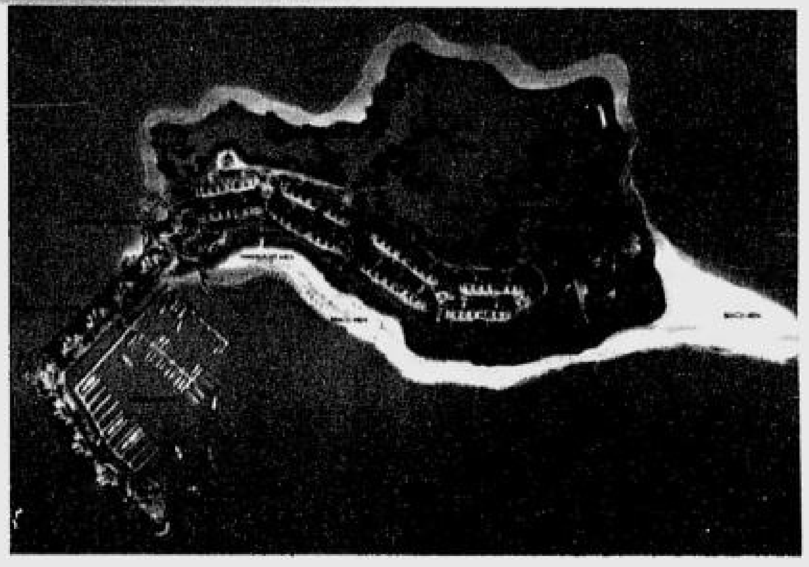
Francisco Villaruz, SEC director for nontraditional securities and intruments department, said the commission had received and verified reports that Pamana had been issuing bouncing checks to plan holders.

Pamana is no longer allowed to sell plans. It continues to exist and operate only to service claims of plan holders.

Reports said Pamana's liquidity crunch was brought about by bad investments in real estate and the sale of traditional plans.



THE ARCHITECT'S perspective of the Subic Island Residential marina and Yatch club



THE SITE development plan

CALIRAYA PROJECT

Sta. Lucia, Fil-Estate showcase development expertise

THE COUNTRY'S two leading property developers—Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. and Fil-Estate Properties—will showcase their development expertise in building a residential and leisure community in Cavinti, Laguna. The project has the scenic views of the serene man-made Lake Caliraya, which surrounds the estate.

The 300-hectare Caliraya Springs Golf & Leisure Estates is equally subdivided to offer residential lots in 300-1,000 square meters and two world-class standard golf courses. It is about 85 km, south of Manila or approximately two hours normal driving from Manila.

Basic infrastructures are already in place, including the landscaped entrance gate, guardhouse, 12-meter wide concrete roads with gutters and curbs, electrical system, and the underground drainage.

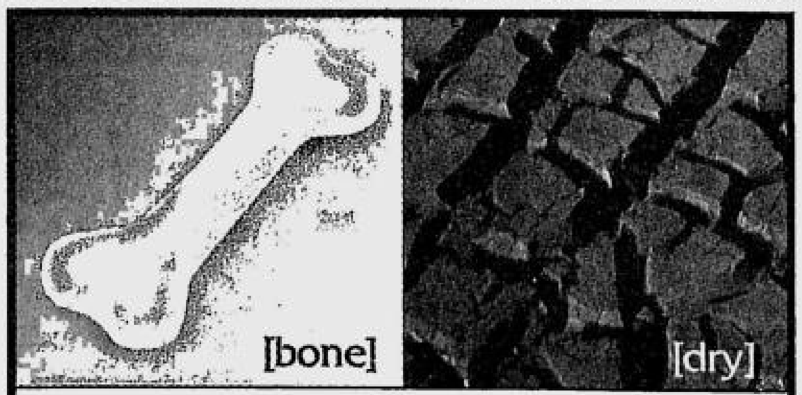
The developers are undertaking finishing works on the huge and luxurious clubhouse complete with a golfer's lounge area, bar, gym, spa, jacuzzi, lockers for men and women, veranda, kitchen, fine-dining and pro shops. Caddies quarters and golf cart garage are also built-in at the clubhouse.

Nine holes of the 18-hole Lakeside Course designed by Arnold Palmer will be ready and playable by December. Lakeside Course features upward and downhill slopes landscaped with tropical ornamental trees and shrubbery. Its terrain has a unique rolling topography that is perfect character for golf hole layout.

The second course, the Upland Falls Course, designed by Australia's most successful golfing professional, will commence construction early next year. He believes in offering many options to test the skills of the most adventurous golfer.

Fairways separated by dramatic level changes and rocky creeks will provide esthetic stimulation and together with mounds and hollows molding will create defined landing areas to support golf hole strategies.

LANDSCAPED entrance, guardhouse and road networks are already in place at Caliraya Spring.



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Selling a new home in an organized way

REAL estate transactions involve one of the biggest financial and emotional commitments most people experience in their lifetime. As a realtor, what can you do to make your clients' home-buying process run smoothly and stress-free? Here are some suggestions from the organizational experts at 3M to help you get started.

- **Create a client profile.** By gaining a full understanding of your clients' needs, including house or apartment size, style, location, accessibility to schools, transportation and personal preferences, you will be able to create a profile pinpointing a select number of housing possibilities that best suit the description.
- **Do your research.** To provide clients with the latest and greatest in housing recommendations and to serve as the ultimate resource guide, do your due diligence. Read up on the latest school reports, neighborhood guides, financial methods and know more about the local associations and businesses. Go the extra mile and categorize all the houses for sale within a specific region or school district with Post-It Flags. That way you can simply navigate through your files.
- **Pay a visit.** Based on the research collected, create an itinerary mapping out the houses worth visiting that best fit the client's criteria. Use Post-It flags to map out the order in which you'll visit each of the open houses before hand. This will save lots of time and prevent backtracking. Post-It Flags come in a variety of colors, which can be used to color code each house's individual attributes. The client will be impressed with your thorough and efficient style and you'll save yourself a whole lot of time and energy.
- **Read between the lines.** Traditionally, the paperwork is the most confusing stage of the purchasing process. Why not simplify things with Post-It Action Flags. Post-It Action Flags include "Sign here" flags, "sign and return," "copy" flags and "file" flags. So if there's a section on the offer—letter of purchase or sales agreement—that requires a signature, a reference, or even careful reading, use Post-It Action Flags to highlight, tab or index those sensitive areas.
- **Under construction.** Every house may need a touch up here or there. Be equipped with an arsenal of service providers ranging from pest control to general contractors to window cleaners to recommend to clients. The extra effort will be worth it in the end.
- **Business builders.** Why let your business card get lost in client's wallet. Print your company logo, name and title on Post-It Notes. By writing a quick message on a Post-It Note with your company information at the top, clients can easily detach the reminder and stick it on to the computer monitor, phone book, rolodex or ref. This way, all the information they need will be at their fingertips.

Selling a house is a lot of work and can be rather time-consuming. Make that next sale a little easier with organizational products and leave your stress behind.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

fitness

How to make your gym workout time-efficient

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

TIME spent exercising is time well spent because exercise is so vital to your health and fitness. But since time is such a precious commodity in today's fast-paced world, no one wants to spend more time than is actually needed to stay fit. Here are ways to streamline your gym workouts to make them more time-efficient.

Location

Let's start with the most basic of factors affecting the time you spend exercising at the gym—location. Studies have shown that if it takes you more than 15 minutes to get to your gym, your chances of continuing to exercise there are slim. No matter how good the equipment, instructors, services or amenities, if you are spending more time traveling to the gym than you are working out, it just isn't practical. The same goes for choosing a far-flung gym simply because it offers out-of-this-world slashed down prices. Remember that time is more precious than money. In the long run, you are better off paying higher prices for the convenience of an accessible location. In an ideal world, the best gym would be right around the corner to your home or your office, or it would be located right in your office building (the most convenient). In the real world, you might have to settle for a mediocre gym that is close by.

Parking is another factor to consider in making your gym workout more time-efficient. The gym might be close by but if there is hardly any parking, you will not only lose valuable time but you will also lose your cool as you battle it out for the few available parking slots.

Make it fit your schedule

A time-efficient workout does not just mean the time spent actually working out but it also means how efficiently you can use your time before and after the workout. Many mothers find that going to the gym right after they have dropped their kids at school or before they pick them up after school works best. They only have to make one trip. Other people work out at lunchtime near their office so they don't have to waste valuable family time before or after work. Others find that exercising before or after work is the best way to make their workouts fit into their daily schedule.

Shut your mouth

It's true that many people join a gym not only for fitness but also for social reasons. Exercising with friends can be just the motivation you need to keep you working out for years. However, unless you have spare hours to spend at the gym, talking too much while working out will do two things: Waste your time and cheat you of the results you deserve.

When people complain to me that they are spending too much time at the gym, I ask them to analyze how much time is spent working out and how much, chatting with other people. I have rarely had someone come back to me after his or her analysis and say that he or she spent more time exercising than talking. And even if you don't mind spending half your life in the gym, talking to other people while you lift weights will lessen the focus and intensity you should be giving your muscles. It's hard to do quality repetitions when your mouth is moving at the same time.

If you are doing a moderate-to-high intensity cardiovascular workout, you can still talk but only a few words at a time. So if you are talking a mile a minute while on the treadmill, you can be sure that your workout is at a low intensity. If you challenge yourself at the moderate-to-intense levels (or do an interval program that mixes intensities), you will get more "bang for your buck" or you will burn more calories per minute so you don't have to do as much. This is assuming, of course, that you are fit enough to work out at those intensities. That's why it should be your goal to get as fit as you can so you can do more work in a shorter period of time. Take note that this concept does not apply to individuals who have to exercise for longer periods at a lower intensity because of health or orthopedic reasons. Don't ever sacrifice safety for time efficiency.

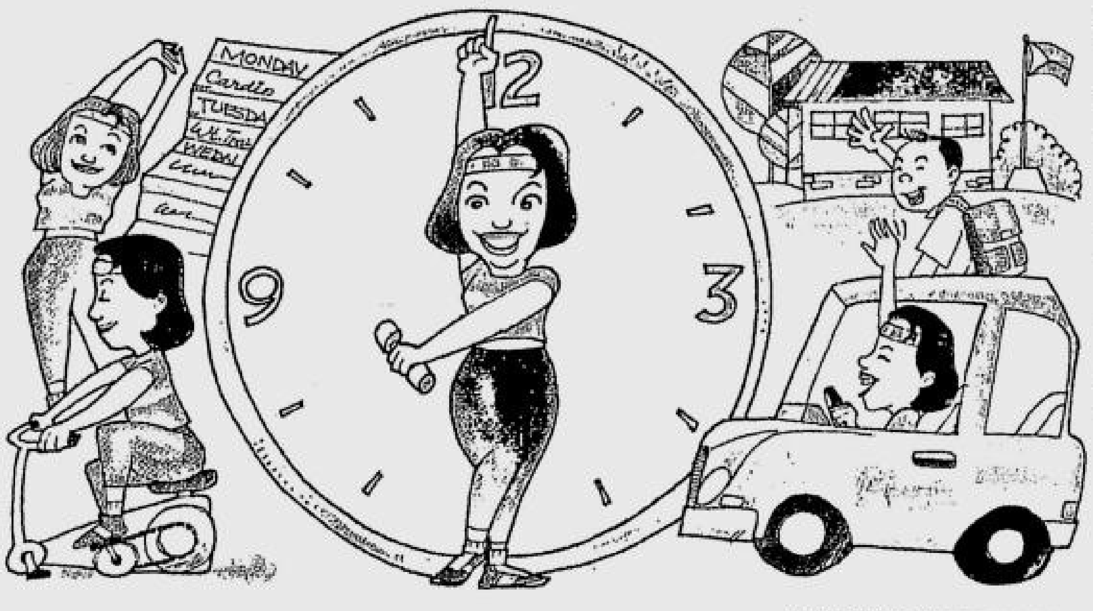

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

> No one wants to spend more time than is actually needed to stay fit

Have a well-designed program

A well-designed program should be safe and effective for your fitness needs and goals. But that doesn't always mean it is time-efficient. You might have too many exercises for the same body part. Or you might be doing the exercises with too much speed and momentum, meaning you could get away with less exercises if you just did them at a slower and more controlled pace. Consult a fitness professional (that should be one of the benefits you get for joining a gym) to fine-tune your program so you can get the same results, if not better, with less exercises.

Adjust to busy times at the gym

Unless you work out in a gym that has very few members (meaning it won't be around for long or it is subsidized by a school, club, or company), the hours from 6-9 a.m. and from 5-8 p.m. are usually crowded, no matter how big the gym (the bigger the gym, the more members). So if you have no other time to exercise except at "peak" time, you had better be able to adjust your workout program. This means using the bike instead of the treadmill if all machines are taken so you don't waste time standing around or doing resistance exercises while waiting for a free machine. It means alternating sets with complete strangers. This way two people can share the same strength machine. As one person rests in between sets, the other person works out on the machine. Have alternative exercises today. If you can't use the bench press station, you can use the cable machine or the chest press machine. Or you can even do push-ups.

Stretch in between sets

Stretching is an important component of an effective exercise program to balance out all the contraction that the muscles go through. But since many people are running after time, it is the part of the workout that usually gets forgotten. A time-effective way to include stretching in your gym program is to stretch in between sets. The average length of time to rest between one set and another is one minute. This is more than enough time to stretch whatever muscle you have just contracted. Besides, one study indicates that you can actually lift more when the muscles have been stretched.

Consider one-set training

If you are a novice lifter (six months or less) or you are someone who needs to lift weights for health reasons (as compared to aesthetic or performance goals), consider one-set training because studies have shown that lifting one set can be just as effective as lifting two to three sets if you are the kind of person I just mentioned above. This means a 60-minute weight lifting routine can be cut down to 20-30 minutes.

Split your program

If you have the kind of schedule that will allow you to go the gym every day but not spend that much time there, then splitting your program just might be the solution you need. Instead of doing a full cardiovascular, weight training, and stretching routine three times a week, you could do your cardiovascular exercise on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and do your weight training/stretching on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.com for past articles and exercises

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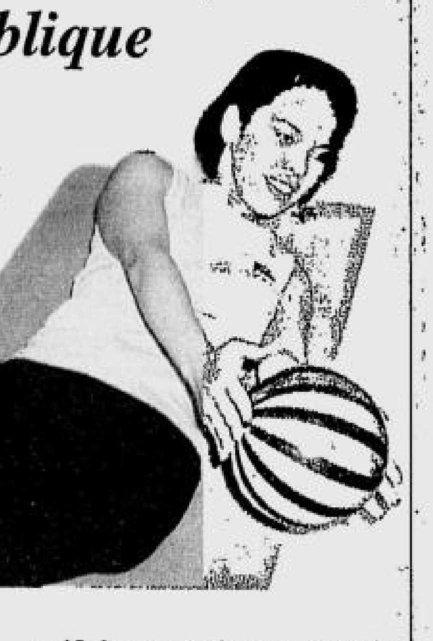
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

45-degree oblique rotation



STRENGTHENS oblique muscles of the abdomen for a stronger and tighter waist.

Equipment:
Exercise mat and medicine ball (weighted exercise ball)/weight plate /dumbbell

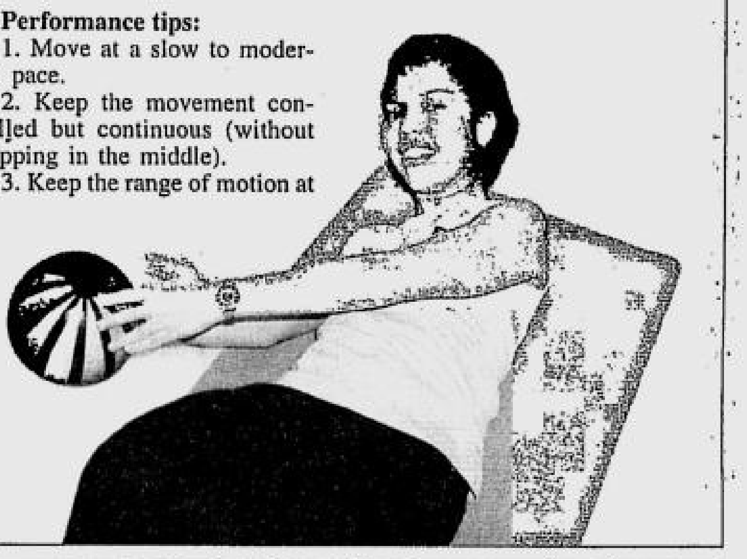
Exercise technique:

1. Lie down with your legs bent together. Hold a medicine ball, weight plate or dumbbell with both hands.
2. Contract your abdominal muscles and curl your torso upward. This is your starting position.
3. Rotate your waist at a 45-degree angle (between your knees and your shoulders) and simultaneously bring the ball to the right then slowly but continuously rotate to the left.
4. Continue rotating from right to left until you have finished the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. Move at a slow to moderate pace.
2. Keep the movement controlled but continuous (without stopping in the middle).
3. Keep the range of motion at a 45-degree angle, not toward your knees or your shoulders.
4. Keep your torso raised up all throughout the execution of the exercise.
5. Make sure to rotate at the waist and not just move your arms from side to side.

Repetitions:
One repetition equals a rotation to the right and a rotation to the left. Do 12-15 continuous repetitions. Do one set. Rest. Then do two or three more sets it you want.



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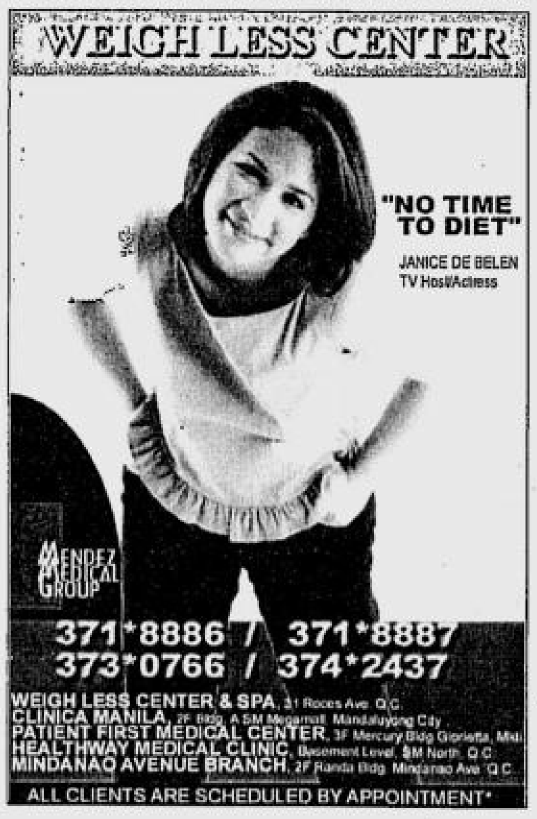

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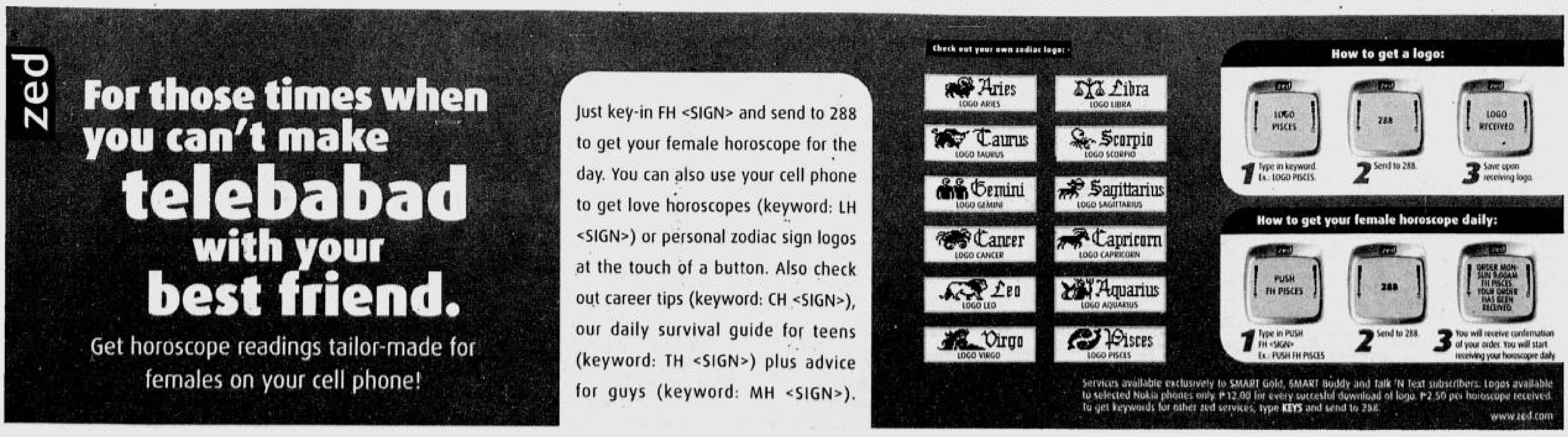
Sa sarap ng kanilang Hot Shower, nauna sa pila si Grandfather!
Di nila alam, si Yaya Juday pala ang nasa shower!!
Wow sarap ng may Jitt Hot-Showirr!



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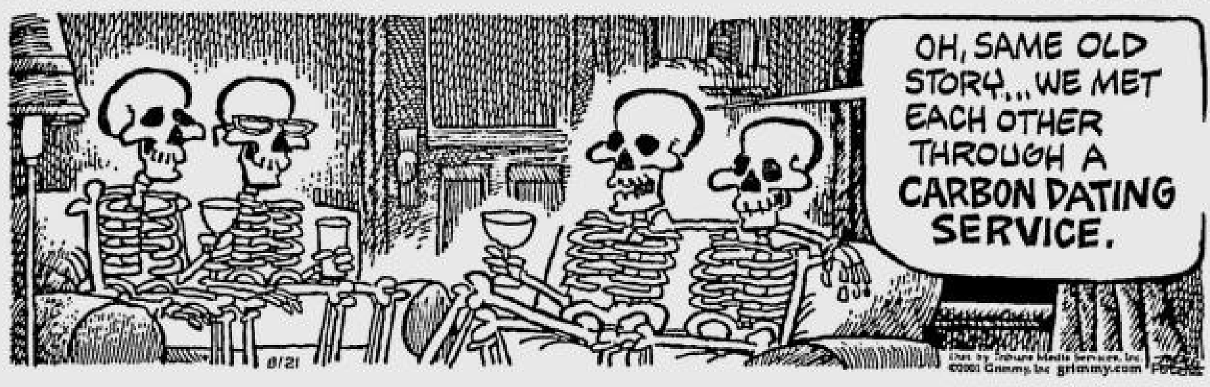
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH, SAME OLD STORY... WE MET EACH OTHER THROUGH A CARBON DATING SERVICE.
8/21
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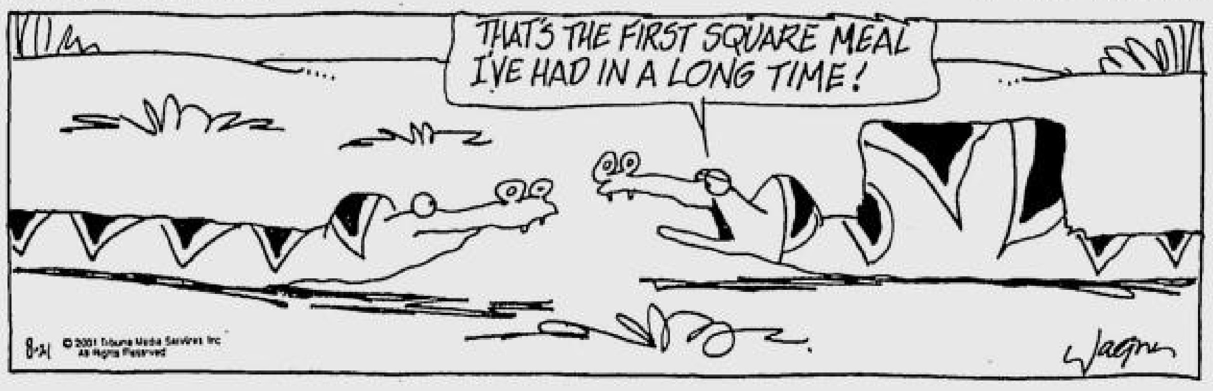
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


THAT'S THE FIRST SQUARE MEAL I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME!
8-21
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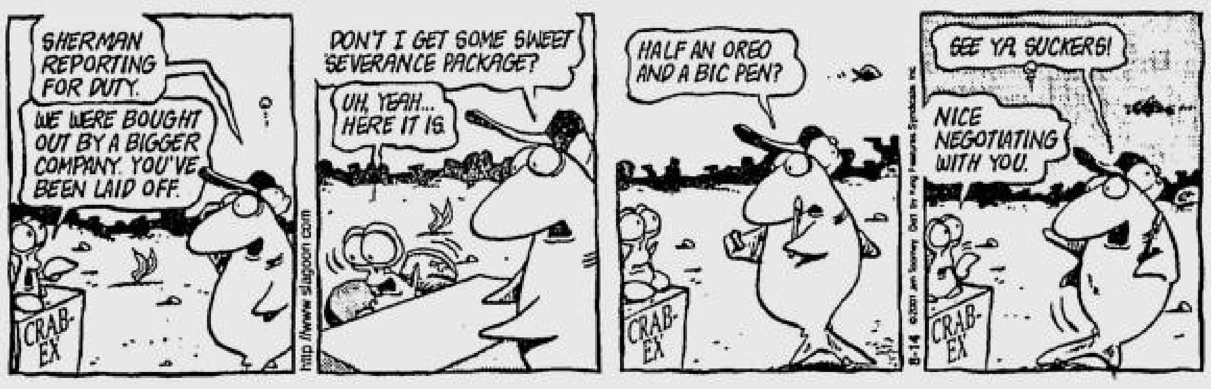
Wagner

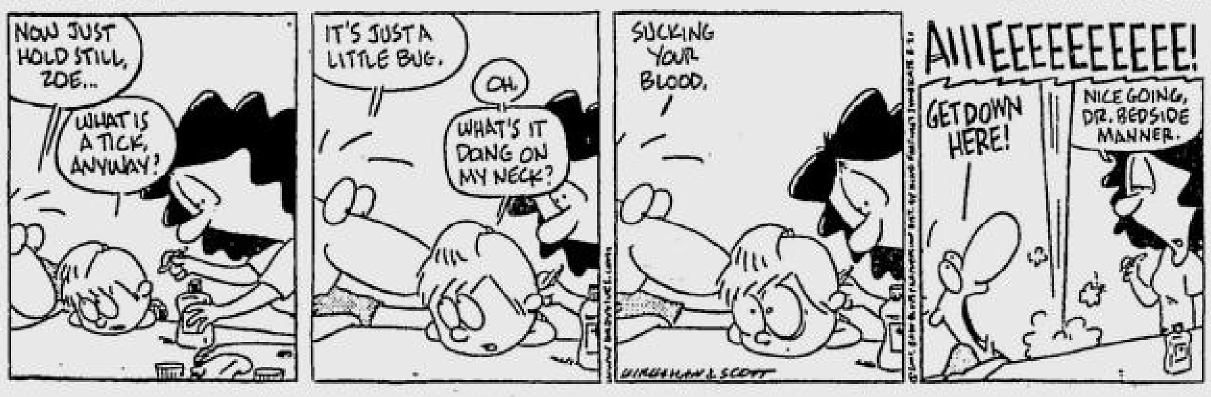
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN REPORTING FOR DUTY.
WE WERE BOUGHT OUT BY A BIGGER COMPANY. YOU'VE BEEN LAID OFF.
CRAB-EX
DON'T I GET SOME SWEET SEVERANCE PACKAGE?
UH, YEAH... HERE IT IS.
http://www.slagoon.com
HALF AN OREO AND A BIC PEN?
8-14
SEE YA, SUCKERS!
NICE NEGOTIATING WITH YOU.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NOW JUST HOLD STILL, ZOE...
WHAT IS A TICK, ANYWAY?
IT'S JUST A LITTLE BUG.
OH.
WHAT'S IT DOING ON MY NECK?
SUCKING YOUR BLOOD.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
AIIIEEEEEEEEEE!
GET DOWN HERE!
NICE GOING, DR. BEDSIDE MANNER.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jada Pinkett Smith, James Gandolfini, Fred Willard, Frankie Avalon, Robert Blake, **Happy Birthday:** Although everything will not run smoothly this year, you will have better control of your life and will instinctively know how to turn problems around with dedication and hard work. You finally understand that success comes from trial and error and that mistakes are fixable. Your numbers: 9, 18, 25, 33, 41, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's time for the big push at work. Accomplishments will exceed expectations if you mix business with pleasure. Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go ahead with your plans for entertainment. Your ability to organize outings will be appreciated by comrades. You'll gain popularity and make new friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A surprise is likely. You are energetic and do some extra work around the house, you will be praised for your initiative. This is a terrific day for talking to those who can help you get ahead.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get back to basics and re-evaluate what is important in life. You need to feel good about yourself and your goals. Burn off some energy in a fitness program.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be innovative. You will be in a high cycle regarding work. Consider starting your own business, but don't invest too much of your own money. Look for a partner who believes in your ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on professional objectives today. Working hard will lead to rewards. Having integrity is vital, so avoid personal involvement with colleagues.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Secret intrigues will lead to trouble. You can't fall for damaging rumors if you refuse to participate in gossip. Consider the source.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend time practicing and developing your creative talents. Becoming involved in interest groups will bring popularity. Don't be too shy to demonstrate your abilities to others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will receive assistance if you ask for it. People will be eager to contribute to the cause if you're diplomatic and honest. A practical business sense will help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's wiser to keep things to yourself. Difficulties will crop up if you foist your ideas on others. Your energy is high so don't be afraid to tackle single-handedly the projects you believe in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your mind is on moneymaking ventures. You can make financial gains by believing in yourself and your innovative ideas. You'll be setting a new trend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Investments should be a top priority. The more you put into your home or other secure investment, the better. If you deal with any legal issues, you'll be in a good position. Don't back down now.

Birthday Baby: You are a "get up and go" kind of person, who likes to be where the action is and who thrives on trying new things. You are hard to keep up with and will never back down from your chosen pursuits.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Glasgow toppers
5 Disparaging remarks
10 Venomous vipers
14 Part of Q.E.D.
15 On the up-and-up
16 "American Gigolo" star
17 Remain
18 Eskimo dwelling
19 Niagara's source
20 Tailor's overacting?
23 Figure of worship
24 Very black
25 Porters
27 Improbable victories
30 Singer Easton
32 "Touched by an Angel" star
33 Mineral springs
34 Those folk
37 "Sliver" author Levin
38 Swarming grasshoppers
41 Needle hole
42 Amounts
44 Silent-screen siren
45 Memorize
47 Horse housing
49 Urged
50 Magic potion
52 Litigant
53 Moral misdeed
54 Shut a tailor's shop?
60 Winter glider
62 Potpourris
63 Ostrich kin
64 Different
65 Emissary
66 Unctuous
67 Scottish loch
68 Challenges
69 Lobster traps

DOWN
1 Pianist John
2 Comic Johnson
3 Lady's address
4 Flummoxes
5 Moves furtively
6 Long-limbed
7 Unsightly fruit?
8 Public disorder
9 Most stalwart
10 Time period
11 Advance to the front like a tailor?
12 Preceding in order
13 Burpee purchase
21 Chip maker
22 "The Raven" poet
26 Letters that blast
27 "Topaz" author
28 Lima's country
29 Tailor's suitability?
30 Full of froth
31 Padlock holder
33 Cicatrix
35 "Jane ___"
36 Repair
39 Pile too much cargo on
40 Blackthorn berries
43 Half dozen
46 Aural medication
48 Singer Damone
49 Invitees
50 City on the Ruhr
51 French textile center
52 Glinted
55 Russian saint
56 Stadium level
57 Buckeye State
58 Whipping scar
59 Votes against
61 Some: Fr.

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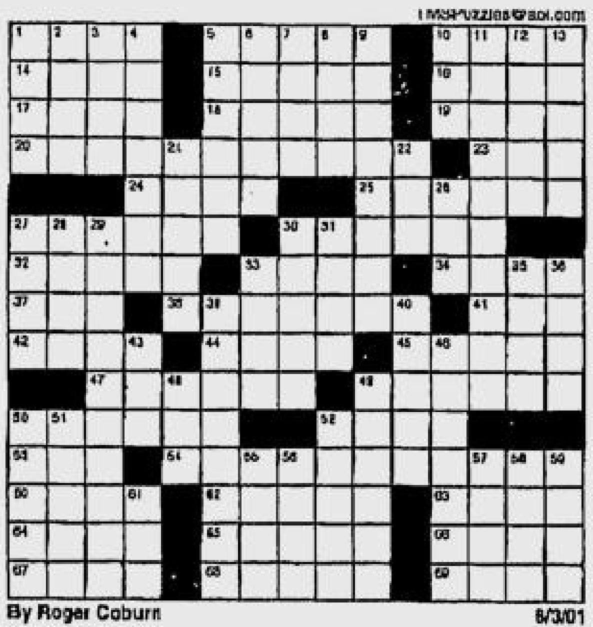

By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

8/3/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	E	P	S		F	I	L	M		I	D	A	S
T	A	L	I	A		E	D	I	E		K	U	R	T
E	R	E	C	T		T	O	M	S		E	M	M	A
R	O	C	K	Y	B	A	L	B	O	A		B	O	G
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O	R	B		B	E	A	N	S		E	A	S	E	L
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			A	L	F		E	G	O		S	O	B	O
G	R	A	N	U	L	E			P	A	I	R		
Y	A	P		P	E	B	B	L	E	B	E	A	C	H
R	I	P	S		N	O	R	A		E	N	N	E	A
O	S	L	O		S	N	I	P		A	N	T	S	Y
S	E	E	D		E	Y	E	S		M	A	S	T	S

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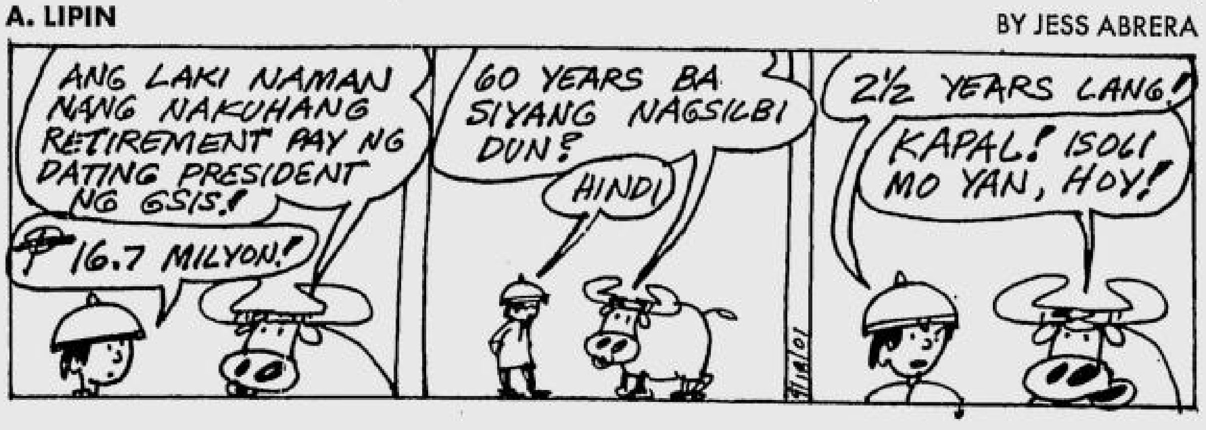
8/3/01

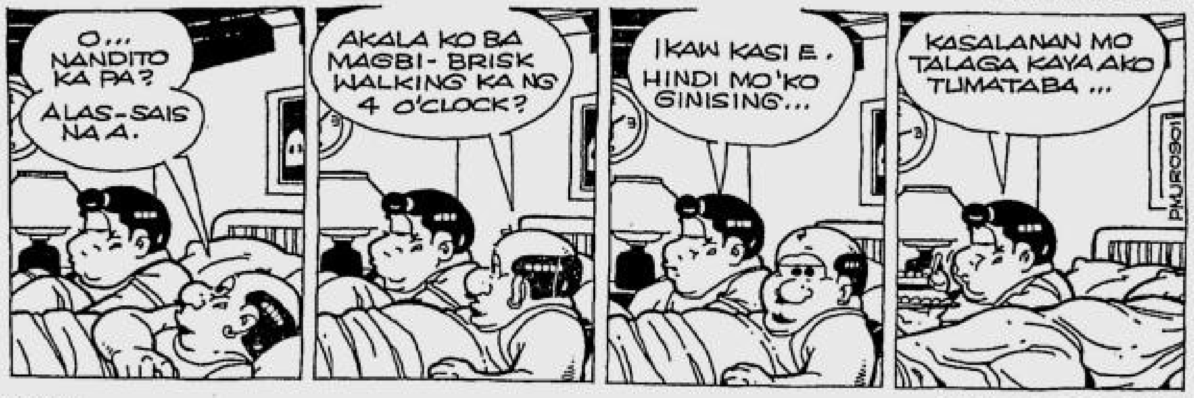
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG LAKI NAMAN NANG NAKUHANG RETIREMENT PAY NG DATING PRESIDENT NG GSIS!
₱16.7 MILYON!
60 YEARS BA SIYANG NAGSILBI DUN?
HINDI
9/18/01
2½ YEARS LANG!
KAPAL! ISOLI MO YAN, HOY!

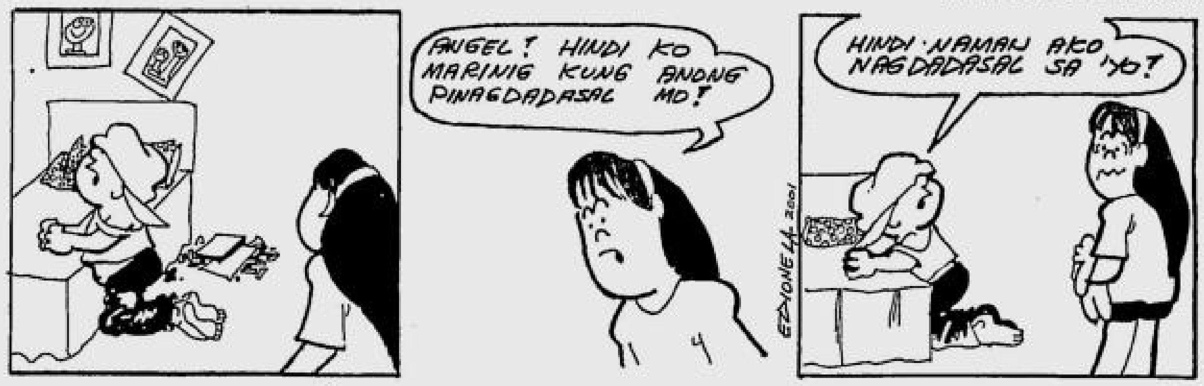
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... NANDITO KA PA?
ALAS-SAIS NA A.
AKALA KO BA MAGBI-BRISK WALKING KA NG 4 O'CLOCK?
IKAW KASI E. HINDI MO'KO GINISING...
KASALANAN MO TALAGA KAYA AKO TUMATABA...
PMJR0901

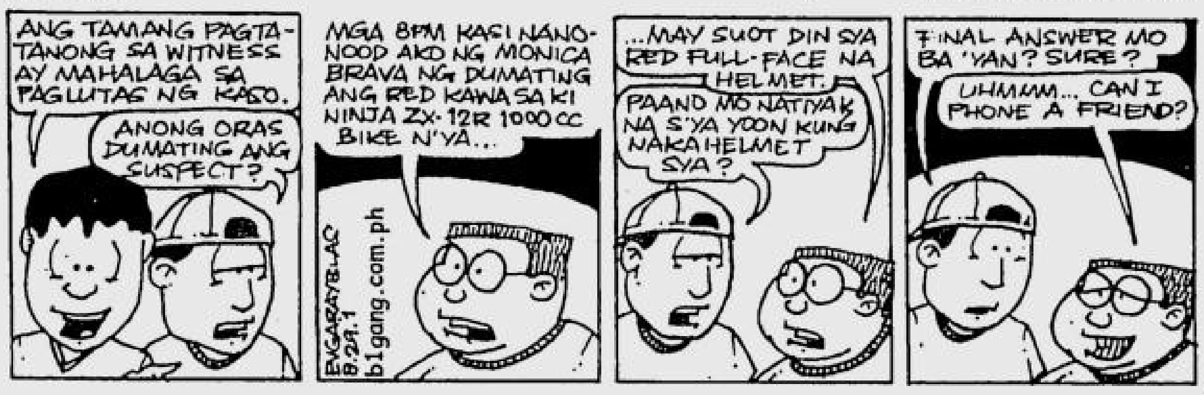
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL! HINDI KO MARINIG KUNG ANONG PINAGDADASAL MO!
EDIONELA 2001
HINDI NAMAN AKO NAGDADASAL SA 'YO!

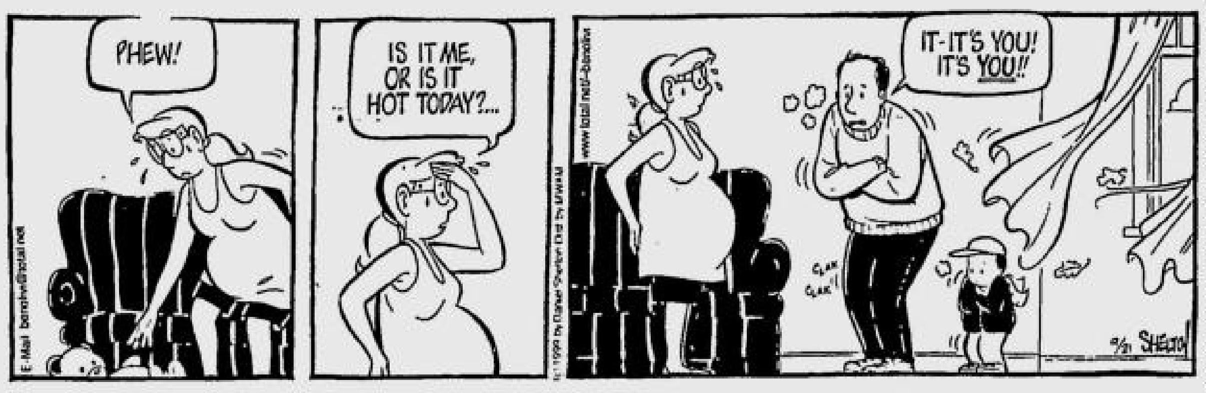
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


ANG TAMANG PAGTATANONG SA WITNESS AY MAHALAGA SA PAGLUTAS NG KASO.
ANONG ORAS DUMATING ANG SUSPECT?
MGA 8PM KASI NANONOOD AKO NG MONICA BRAVA NG DUMATING ANG RED KAWASAKI NINJA ZX-12R 1000CC BIKE N'YA...
EVGARAYBLAC 8.29.1
b1gang.com.ph
...MAY SUOT DIN SYA RED FULL-FACE NA HELMET.
PAANO MO NATIYAK NA S'YA YOON KUNG NAKAHELMET SYA?
FINAL ANSWER MO BA 'YAN? SURE?
UHMMM... CAN I PHONE A FRIEND?

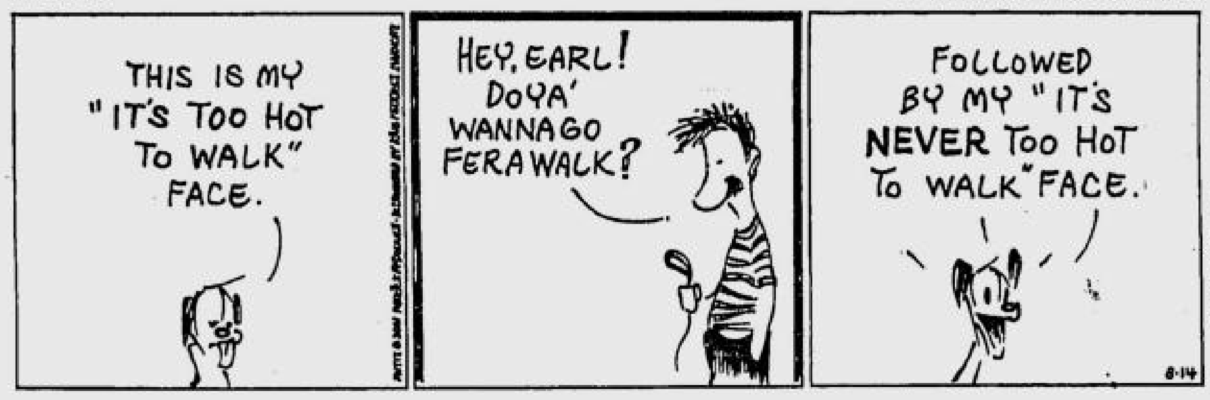
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PHEW!
IS IT ME, OR IS IT HOT TODAY?...
IT-IT'S YOU! IT'S YOU!!
9/21 SHELTON

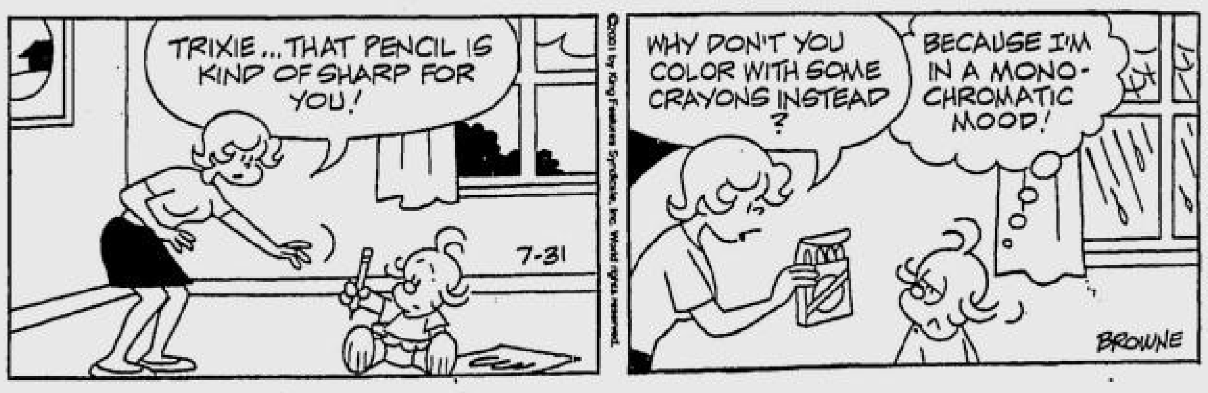
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY "IT'S TOO HOT TO WALK" FACE.
HEY, EARL! DOYA' WANNAGO FERA WALK?
FOLLOWED BY MY "IT'S NEVER TOO HOT TO WALK" FACE.
8-14

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


TRIXIE... THAT PENCIL IS KIND OF SHARP FOR YOU!
7-31
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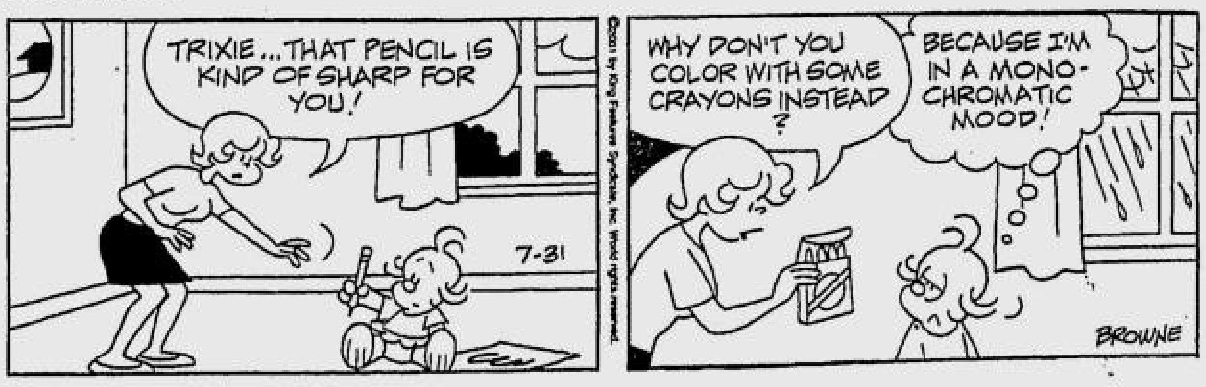
WHY DON'T YOU COLOR WITH SOME CRAYONS INSTEAD?
BECAUSE I'M IN A MONO-CHROMATIC MOOD!
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO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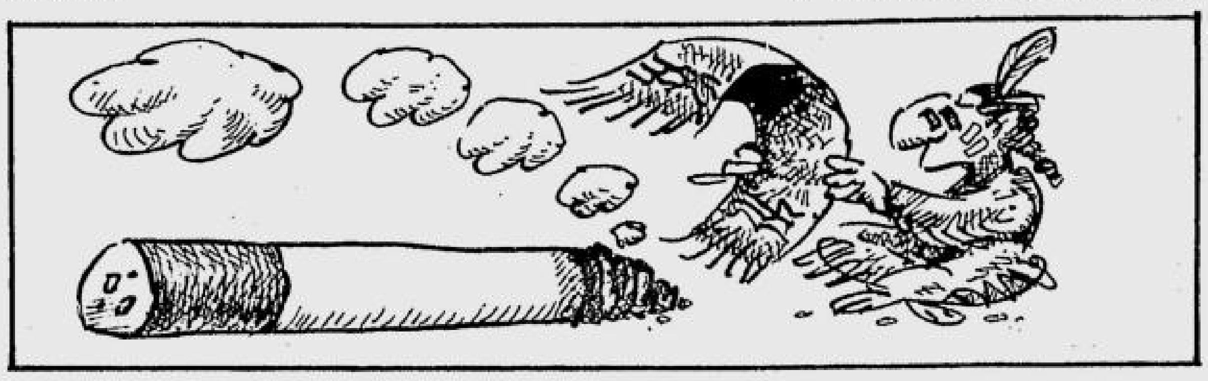
BROWNE

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



A record of everything man has thought or done

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THERE is one teaching in the Catholic religion that intrigued me when I was a child.

It is the concept of the "Book of Life." According to Catholicism, when a person dies, he stands before St. Peter who will open a book that contains all the things he has done in life. Based on what's in that book, St. Peter will send the man either to heaven or to hell.

As a child, I wondered how heaven, which is a spiritual state, can have a book that is physical? Could that Book of Life really be referring to something else? I never knew the answer to this question and the priests were as confused as I was. Then, I came across the concept of the "Akashic Record" in Eastern thought many years later.

What is the Akashic Record? This is very difficult to explain because it does not exist in physical reality. The word *akasha* has no equivalent term in English. One definition of the *akasha* is that it is the "ultimate stuff" of the universe. If we can reduce everything that is contained in the universe into its ultimate component, it will be the *akasha*.

According to the American psychic and prophet Edgar Cayce, the information contained in the Akashic Record is written in the "skein of time and space." I know that's not very clear, but it somehow gives us a hint that it is not a physical record that we can read with our physical eyes nor hold with our physical hands.

According to this concept, each person creates or writes his own akashic record every moment that he lives. Everything that he has even thought of, or done in his life, is contained in the Akashic Record. Not a single entry is censored or edited and the recording stops only when the person dies. This description certainly fits the concept of the Book of Life in Catholic teaching.

If there is such a record of everything we have thought of and done on earth, can that be accessed by anyone? The answer is apparently, yes. There are very highly evolved beings and psychics or clairvoyants who can read the Akashic Record, the universal repository of all knowledge.

Cayce was one of them. He acknowledged in a trance that one of the sources of his information was the Akashic Record. In the Philippines, I've met at least two psychics who are so accurate that their knowledge could only come from the akashic records of the individuals they are reading.

Apparently, even physical objects, such as stones, metals, minerals, walls, pictures, etc., contain hidden information that can be accessed through psychometry or object reading.

Nothing can be hidden from one who can read the Akashic Record. This is probably the origin of the belief in the Philippines that "walls have ears and stones have eyes." Everything that happens within the walls of a room can be revealed through psychic perception. Any object held by another individual can leave impressions which can be "read" by another who has the ability for such a thing.

And such impressions cannot be erased physically, because they do not belong to the physical realm. For example, the information that a knife has been used for killing a person, remains in that object even if it has been washed or cleaned by the strongest detergent. The late Gerard Croiset, a Danish clairvoyant, could hold any object that belonged to a person or anything someone had touched, and he could tell a great deal about that person. A violent incident that happened in a room leaves psychic imprints of that incident which can be felt or read by a psychic even years after the event took place.

Psychic detectives have been employed by police forces abroad to help in crime detection and investigation, although this is often denied by authorities. It is no secret that Scotland Yard in England, the FBI in the United States and the Police Department at Utrecht in the Netherlands have used psychics in this manner with very good results.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

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A HIGHLY nutritious vegetable widely cultivated throughout the Philippines, *ampalaya is* rich in vitamins A, B and C as well as iron, calcium and phosphorus.

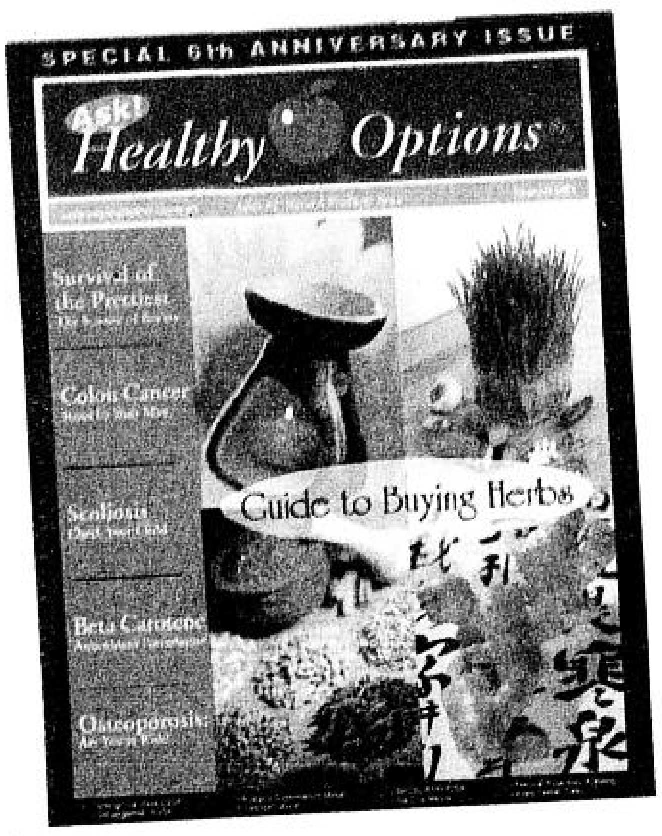
According to the FNRI, each 100 g of *ampalaya* contains 12.05 mg of beta carotene (Vitamin A), 0.03 mg of thiamine (Vitamin B1), 0.11 mg of riboflavin (Vitamin B2), 0.6 mg of niacin, 14 mg of ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), 0.3 mg of iron, 25 mg of phosphorus and 74 mg of calcium.

The Department of Health is promoting *ampalaya* (*makiling* variety) as one of the 10 medicinal plants for public consumption.

Amargozin Ampalaya capsules are not bitter to swallow. Containing 500 mg of *ampalaya* (*momordica charantia* l., *makiling* variety) leaves, Amargozin capsules give the common benefits of the plant leaves and fruits.

Amargozin Ampalaya is cultivated and nurtured in organic and environment-friendly farms. The leaves and fruits are harvested only by trained personnel and processed into capsule in a BFAD-registered pharmaceutical facility complying with Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) standards.

Amargozin Ampalaya capsules can be taken initially at 1-3 capsules three times daily, with the dose adjusted depending on blood sugar levels. It is currently the most affordable *ampalaya* capsule in the market. Available in all Mercury Drugstore branches nationwide. Call Altermed at 411-9907 or 920-1911.



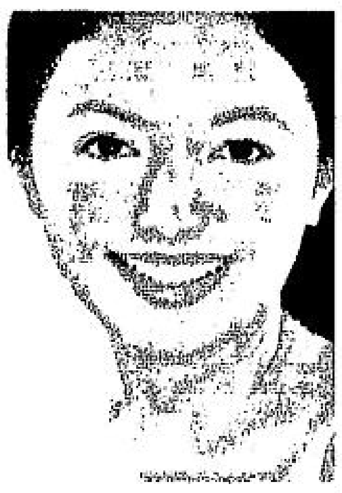
SMART GUIDE

The latest Healthy Options News Digest highlights the wonders of herbs, among other natural remedies and keys to achieving well-being. What they are, how they work and how to buy and use them—the information on herbs as effective and safe remedies is supplemented with health tidbits like how apple juice and brisk walking can cut the risk of heart disease; new findings on the versatile Vitamin C; even how a good laugh can strengthen the immune system. The September-October digest is available at all Healthy Options branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Rustan's Makati Supermarket, Festival Supermall, Ayala Center-Cebu, Greenbelt, SM City North Edsa, SM City Manila and SM Megamall B.

ASCEND
ASCEND

ONE-STEP SOLUTION

Help for dry and damaged hair comes in the Ascend herbal hair moisturizer's new variant, Ascend Extra Care, a product recently introduced by Procter & Gamble. The variant contains coconut milk plus the Chinese herb *shouwu* to soften the hair while keeping it black and lively. Oil-free and water-based, Ascend Extra Care promises not to leave a sticky after-feel and can be used on wet or dry hair anytime without rinsing. Packaged with a stylish pump container and tube, it is available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide.



GRAND CELEBRATION

To mark its 19th anniversary, Facial Care Center is giving free consultations and huge discounts on their treatment until Oct. 31. FCC has pioneered skin care treatments in the country, particularly the Skin Rejuvenation System, the Laserlight Hair Removal treatment and the dual benefit Vitamin and Oats Counter-aging treatments. Call or visit any FCC branch: Makati (817-3323), Ortigas (687-2196), QC (372-6633), Shaw (534-7701), Alabang (842-1144), Binondo (242-2148), Congressional (920-7938), Pampanga (961-3404) and Cebu (233-7631).

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Wishing women well, indeed

By Anne A. Jambora

WHO says beauty is only skin deep? The people behind Avon Cosmetics Inc., after more than 100 years of providing women the world over with beauty products, has heeded the call of the millennium for beauty that goes beyond the skin and into a woman's inner self.

Where yesteryears' woman had very limited choices—if she had any at all—today's modern working woman demands more. The demands of both the corporate world and the home front have created the superwoman, and this tough babe will not settle for something as superficial as a makeup kit alone.

With that in mind, Avon Cosmetics Inc. recently launched Avon Wellness, a complete line of nutritional, exercise, fitness and stress management products. Under this new umbrella are Avon VitAdvance, a multivitamins and nutritional supplements line; Avon Active, exercise and fitness apparel and accessories; and Avon Senses, aromatherapy products for relaxing after a hard day's work.

CHARMAINE Abad, Avon Cosmetics group marketing manager; Darryl Reed, Roche marketing regulatory manager, and Paul J. Lancos, Avon Cosmetics vice president for marketing

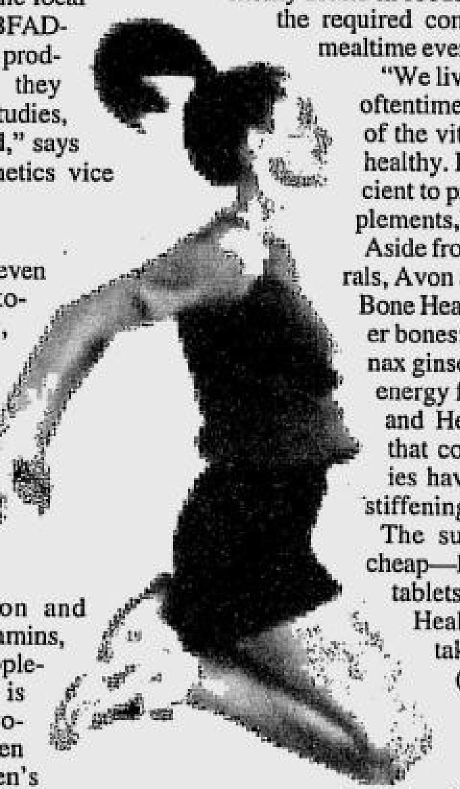
PHOTO: ROMY HOMILLADA

Several health shops have sprouted in the metropolis in the past few years, and when Avon saw the market demand steadily growing, they teamed up with Roche to exclusively formulate a multivitamins and nutritional supplements line at par with world standards. "Yes, there are many herbal products available in the local market today, but they are not BFAD-approved. However, with our products, consumers are assured they have undergone tests and studies, and they are BFAD-approved," says Paul J. Lancos, Avon Cosmetics vice president for marketing.

Supplements

The VitAdvance includes seven supplements designed for today's woman and her family, covering the whole cycle of their lives—from childhood to maturity to aging. Although designed to benefit the whole family, Avon is targeting the female market as women today make 75 percent of all family health-care decisions.

Start the day with Avon and Roche's VitAdvance multivitamins, minerals and nutritional supplement. Women's Complete I is specifically formulated for women 13-49 years old. For women 50 and above, there's Women's Complete II. For the man behind the woman, Avon and Roche have also developed Men's Complete. Kid's Complete, for children ages 2-12, will not be hard to swallow as they come in chewable cherry and grape flavors.



"It is wise to take the supplements regularly. Make it a habit, like brushing your teeth," says Darryl Reed, Roche marketing regulatory manager. He says that although vitamins are commonly found in foods, not everybody consumes the required complete dietary food every mealtime every day.

"We live in a fast-paced world and oftentimes we skip a meal or eat less of the vitamins required to keep us healthy. It is more practical and efficient to provide your body with supplements," Lancos adds.

Aside from multivitamins and minerals, Avon and Roche have developed Bone Health for stronger and healthier bones; Energy Advance with panax ginseng extract to help generate energy for endurance and stamina; and Heart Health, a supplement that contains garlic, which studies have shown may prevent the stiffening of aorta.

The supplements do not come cheap—P250-315 for a bottle of 30 tablets—and the Bone and Heart Health supplements have to be taken two to four times a day (the rest are to be taken only once a day). "It's probably about 10-15 percent higher than what your average Mercury Drug outlet sells, but for that we compensate with our excellent service. We have also compared our prices to other direct sellers, and ours are priced lower," says Lancos.

Active lifestyle

During the press launch, Avon Wellness invited the executive vice president of the Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils., Shirley del Prado-Quejada, to demonstrate a five-minute executive workout—exercises one can do even while working behind the desk.

"Stress has brought about the demand for yoga and other exercises," she says. And it is with this in mind that Avon Wellness also came up with Avon Active, fashionwear specifically designed for women who like to sweat it out in the gym. Avon Active includes Y-back tees, raglan shirts, gym shorts and a waist wrap that trims waist of excess fats and fluids.

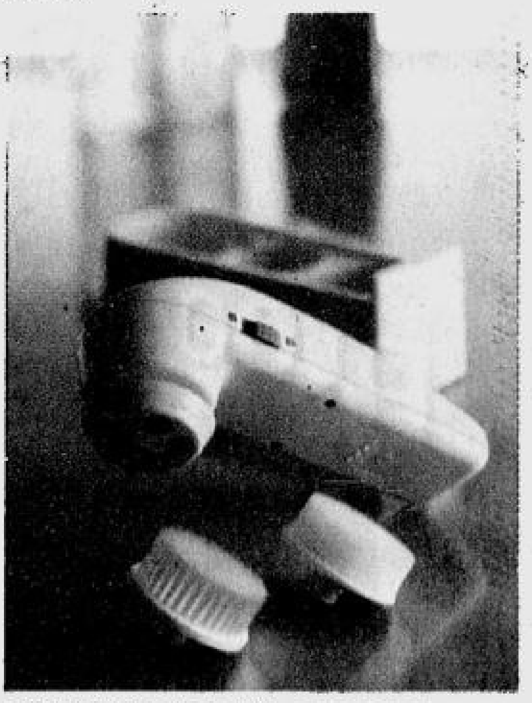
To complete a woman's day, there's also Avon Senses, a line of aromatherapy candles that soothes the senses and calms the nerves, perfect just before hitting the sack. Jasmine and Lavender aromatherapy candles that come with frosted glass candleholder are lead-free and burn for 15 hours. Avon Senses also includes a battery-operated Facial Massager with three interchangeable attachments—facial brush for deep cleansing, sponge for scrubbing and exfoliating, and massage balls for, well, toning.

By balancing beauty and health, there's harmony—and that's the objective of Avon Wellness. The line will be available in the local market in November. Call the Avon Hotline at 864-2900, toll-free no. 1-800-2866, or e-mail helpdesk.ph@avon.com.

Not happy with just making 'les femmes' pretty, Avon introduces health and fitness products for them and their families

AROMATHERAPY candles for soothing the senses

SUPPLEMENTS for heart, bone and energy



PAMPER the face with a massager.

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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Are prescribed medicines included in my MEDICard healthcare program?

Medicines prescribed by the MEDICard attending physician, to treat the member of a covered illness during hospitalization in an accredited hospital are included in the healthcare program. However, prescribed meds given after the order of discharge from the hospital has been conferred are not anymore included. Medicines prescribed on an out-patient basis (i.e. those prescribed after a consultation) are not covered too. For large corporate clients, out-patient prescribed medicines may be incorporated into their healthcare program, on a reimbursement basis from MEDICard and based on specified limits.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Carlos Salazar Alberto has been with MEDICard's Service Team since 1995. Dr. Alberto, as commonly referred to by his patients, specializes in Ophthalmology and is based in St. Luke's Medical Center. He received his degree in Medicine from the University of Sto. Tomas, and his specialization training from St. Luke's. He subspecializes in Retina Disease and Surgery. Doc Carlos is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology and Vitreo-Retinal Society of the Philippines. He is a golf and photography enthusiast and is married to ABS-CBN Sales Executive, Annette Alberto. You may visit Dr. Carlos at St. Luke's, room 546 of the Medical Arts Bldg., from Mondays to Fridays, except Thursdays, 10 AM to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

1989 UP College of Medicine graduate, **Dr. Alma M. Valdez** is MEDICard's accredited Ophthalmologist in the Community Hospital of San Pablo, Laguna. Doc Alma pursued her specialization training from UP-PGH. She is a valued member of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology and has been practicing her profession for more than 8 years now. For consultations, visit Dr. Valdez at the Community Hospital of San Pablo, from Wednesdays to Fridays, 9 AM to 12 noon and then again from 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

After graduating from the University of Sto. Tomas, College of Medicine, **Dr. Jorge Mangoba Concepcion** specialized in General Surgery, with residency training from UP-PGH. He is now one of MEDICard's most priced specialists, subspecializing in Trauma Surgery. Based in Medical City General Hospital, Dr. Concepcion has been extending quality MEDICard service to members for more than 3 years now. Doc Jorge, with over 12 years experience in his profession is a Fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeons. He is married and has 4 children. You may visit Dr. Concepcion for your consultations, at room 505 of the Medico Bldg. every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 2 to 5 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

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